#### **AFM** falters on peace worries

AMMAN (R) — Amman stock prices continued to stumble on Sunday as worries over Middle East peace after Gaza's bloody clashes soured market sentiment, brokers said. The general price index of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) closed at 147.62 points, down a further 0.13 per cent from 147.82 at Saturday's close. "Political matters play a decisive role in our market sentiment, there is no economic decision, only a political one that affects everything ... investors are afraid to take new moves until matters calm," Mohammad Jamjoum, general manager of the Jordan-Gulf Bank, told Reuters. He said unrest in the Gaza Strip and West Bank made investors hesistant to make new steps. Middle East turmoil has rekindled fears amongst the business community of a derailing of the peace process, he added. The market is traditionally very sensitive to political developments relating to Middle East peace making, but Mr. Jamjoum forecast a market pick-up at the end of 1994, when banks are expected to enter in strength.



#### Arafat wants polls regardless of Israel

CAIRO (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, angered at the slow pace of talks with Israel, said he may call for Palestinian. elections without waiting for Israeli approval. The Palestinian authority will resort to conducting the election from one side if Israel continues to stall and not respond to the Palestinian. proposals," he told the Al Ahram daily. The interview was in Monday editions that went on sale late Sunday. Talks with Israel on elections for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and West Bank have been suspended by Israel. They were to have resumed in Cairo on the Cair Monday, but have been put off umil at least Nov. 29. The Palestinians want to elect a 100-member legislative body that would appoint a cabinet, while Israel has insisted on a single, smaller governing council. It was unclear how Mr. Arafat would proceed with elections, although he suggested he would seek outside help. Mr. Arafat told Al Ahram that he appointed Palestinian authority he heads "will inform the sponsors of the (peace) agreement" along with Norway and Egypt, who have been mediators in the peace process.

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the Jordanians modernize

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Volume 19 Number 5773

AMMAN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1994, JUMADA ALTHANIA 17, 1415

## Jordan, Israel to start marking border

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel and Jordan decided on Sunday to start demarcating their border, after the first meeting of a committee in charge of implementing the Oct. 26 peace treaty, the foreign ministry said.

The ministry said that teams from both countries were to start marking the 400-kilometre border from next week, in an operation expected to last six months. Jordan recovered 380 square kilometres of territory

under the treaty. The committee, which met in the Bet Shean valley of northern Israel, was headed by Eliakim Rubinstein for Israel and Hani Mulki, secretary-general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology and President of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

#### Postal links

Jordan and Israel also agreed on Sunday to speed up measures to start postal. links in line with the peace

"Both will take necessary routine measures to have postal links operational as soon as possible," said a Jordanian official quoted by Reuters. He gave no firm date but said links could start

before December. Sunday's meeting discussed three major items, according to Dr. Mulki.

These included the committee's programme of action and its future activities, the -24 agreements covered by the treaty and outcome of the borders and transport committees' meetings held last weak,

The committee also reviewed the various activities planned for next week's meetings of the various committees, including the border committee, Dr. Mulki said in a statement to Jordan Televi-

He added that implementation of the various agreements will take a period ranging between three months and nine months. . Dr. Mulgi voiced hope that

the actual delineation of border points will start next

## Diplomatic ties

The committee that met Sunday was set up on Thursday when an Israeli delegation visited Amman and held talks.

During those meetings, it was decided that the two countries will announce the establishment of diplomatic relations on Nov. 27. Embassies would be opened on Dec.

The Israeli delegation was led by Uri Savir, directorgeneral of the foreign ministry, and included senior advisors and officials from the foreign and finance ministлes.

The two sides discussed the various aspects of economic cooperation as called for in the peace treaty, which sets a May 1995 deadline for reaching agreements. These include a free trade zone. investment, banking, industrial cooperation and labour. Most of the projects were discussed at the Oct. 30-Nov. leconomic summit held in Casablanca, Morocco.

The two sides have given priority to implementing projects that are vital to the very essence of the peace treaty, including facilities to make available to Jordan its share of Yarmouk River waters as agreed in the accord.

Jordan made its first exports to Israel when it sent a five-tonne "test" shipment of tomatoes across the Jordan River Bridge. Officials also said Sunday the first group of Jordanian tourists will go to Israel on Monday (see stories on page 12).



Palestinian security agents patrol the streets of Gaza City (AFP photo)

## Arafat urges national unity; Hamas wants him removed

Combined agency dispatches

YASSER ARAFAT appealed for Palestinian unity on Sunday in his first public appearance since the Gaza

Muslim militants, however, urged Mr. Arafat's removal as chairman of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

"Despite all that happened, we call for national unity," Mr. Arafat said in a opened fire on anti-Arafat brief speech to 500 supporters outside his Gaza City

headquarters. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader renewed charges that Islamic fundamentalists who fought running battles with Palestinian police on Friday were receiving instructions from

foreign forces. "We will not allow any power that receives orders from abroad to kill the Palestinian dream," he said, calling on veteran PLO fighters to be "guards" of that

dream. The PNA began the process of reconciliation on Sunday by releasing 31 members of the Islamic Resistance

It said that life in Gaza had returned to normal and thanked Palestinians for resisting "attempts by the envious and bitter who tried to

instigate strife." Fourteen Palestinian civilians and one policeman died in the Gaza City clashes as police fired at stone-throwers outside the main mosque.

Three more Arabs died Saturday when Israeli troops protesters in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. An Israeli soldier was shot dead by Hamas militants in the Strip the same day.

Hamas warned Sunday that Mr. Arafat would have to be removed and elections held for a new temporary Palestinian leadership.

The group's spokesman in Jordan, Ibrahim Ghosheh, said that the movement "refuses categorically that Arafat continues imposing his au-

"His staying as head of the Palestinian authority would perpetuate the crisis." Mr. Ghosheh said. In Damascus, Hamas said

(Continued on page 2)

## Israel may advance funds to PNA, speed up talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) —. Israel's cabinet on Sunday debated advancing money to Yasser Arafat's embattled self-rule government and speeding up negotiations on expanding autonomy in the wake of inter-Palestinian vioience in the Gaza Strip.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he would urge international donors to release some promised funds to the Palestinians and proposed that Israel advance a sum of over\$13 million to the self-rule authority.

Mr. Peres said growing economic hardship in the Gaza Strip created a disillusignment with the peace accord that in part led to Friday's rioting and bloodshed in which 15 Palestinians were killed and more than

200 wounded. The \$2.2 billion pledged to the self-rule government has been slow in coming as donors waited for the Palestine National Authority (PNA) to establish a detailed

"The cabinet decided today to make many efforts to improve the economic situation. Arafat is in the middle of a struggle and we want him to succeed. But without sup-port from the Palestinian street, the entire agreement is shaky," said Tourism Minister Uzi Baram.

"The minute the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) started a real struggle against Hamas as he has, perhaps involuntarily, Israel cannot remain indifferent and look on like a traffic cop," he added.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, however, expressed reservations about Israel footing too many of PNA bills and said the government would only decide on financial help for the PNA after Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin returned from a U.S. visit later in the week. Mr. Peres stressed Israel

would not intervene militarily rious fields. or reenter the Gaza Strip it

#### (Continued on page 7) Movement, Hamas, arrested accounting system. Full liberalisation of economy vital for investment—analysts

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has to totally liberalise its economy if the Kingdom wants to instil investor confidence and a share of the international investment expected to come to the Middle East as Arabs and Israelis make peace, international analysts said Sunday. Angus Blair and John

Shakeshaft of the Londonbased Baring Securities, a 230-year-old merchant bank and investment house, also suggested that the Jordanian government adopt a more determined effort to create the right investment climate by setting a timeframe that would ease bureaucracy and put an end to inefficiency.

Without such determination, targets would be missed and Jordan would be left behind in the mounting competition for international capital, Mr. Blair and Mr. Shakeshaft told a gathering of Jordan's economic experts and policy advisors.

At the outset of the meeting, attended by Ziad Fariz and Ahmad Mango, two advisors of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Finance Minister Sami Gammoh briefly reviewed Jordan's economic performance since 1989 when it adopted a

fiscal restructuring programme and how the Kingdom had exceeded some of the goals set in the programme. Mr. Gammoh also said Jordan was firmly committed to reforms aimed at realising a free market economy and liberalisation as well as privatisation of public entities.

Mr. Blair, who has coauthored a detailed study on the Amman Financial Market (AFM) and rated it as one of the best organised among emerging markets in the region, conceded that Jordan had gone a long way in creating the right ingredients that attract foreign investment.

Statistics, derived from International Monetary Fund (IMF) figures and quoted by Mr. Blair, showed Jordan's annual economic growth rate of nearly six per cent in 1993 was well above the 4.7 per cent average for the Middle

However, figures of the international trend in investments over the years indicated that the Kingdom had yet to reach a point where it could describe conditions here as conducive to attracting foreign capital of any significance, he said. Among the factors nega-

tively affecting foreign invest-

ment in Jordan was the

"psychological barriers" resulting from the regulatory and administrative environments, unclear commitment to liberalisation, the faster pace of other markets, few investibles, increasing international competition for capital, the presence of only a few developed industries and "market" rumours, Mr. Blair

the international capital flow, then it has to remove the psychological barriers that are still in place," he said. The analyst said despite the moves that Jordan undertook to project itself as a target for international investment there remained "unclear commitment to liberalisation and mixed signais."

"If Jordan wants a part of

International capital tends to flow to markets where "there are no sacred cows" when it comes to privatisation, foreigners do not need permission to trade in the stock market, local issues on the bourse are always oversubscribed, barrier-free trade policies are followed and respect of intellectual copyright is ensured, he said.

There is no specific formula to attract foreign capital except to meet these criteria and liberalise the economy and ease the regulatory environment, said Mr. Shakeshaft.

The experience of other countries has proved that offering high incentives and encouragement such as tax holiday and exemptions is only part of the measures necessary to attract foreign capital, both analysts said. One of the prerequisites

was allowing foreign capital to enter the stock market without any restrictions on its movement or any limits on its involvement in equity, said Mr. Blair. Such an approach to "indirect investments" would automatically lead to direct investments, he said. Mr. Blair said Morocco,

which attracted the bulk of foreign capital that went to the Middle East and North Africa region in 1993, was a positive example. The country had a relatively attractive package of incentives for direct investments for several years, but it failed to realise any significant flow of foreign capital. But in 1992, when King Hassan II took a personal interest and lifted all regulations on foreign investment in the stock market, international interest was kindled.

(Continued on page 7)

## U.S. may give Jordan billions in military aid

The following article is reprinted unedited from the Nov. 7-13 issue of the Washington-based Defense News. The article, which appeared under the same headline, was written jointly by two of the newspaper's staff writers, Philip Finnegan and Barbara Opail:

WASHINGTON — U.S. government officials have begun crafting an aid package to make good on President Bill Clinton's pledge to assist Jordan's financially strapped military.

Options have been drafted in the Department of Defense that would provide for a long-term military aid package ranging from \$250 million to \$2.5 billion, according to Department of Defense, Department of State and defense industry sources.

King Hussein has requested billions of dollars of equipment, including 36 to 72 F-16 fighters, more than 200 MIA2 main battle tanks and large amounts of support

equipment. Options are being crafted that would provide an important show of support for Jordan after the peace agreement signed between Jordan and Israel, but would stop short of meeting Hussein's full military shopping list.

"We will work with Jordan to meet your legitimate defense requirements and to give you the security you deserve," Clinton told a joint session of the Jordanian parliament on Oct. 26. Although Clinton's pledge-

lacked specifics, U.S. government sources said the White House has directed a coordinated effort to craft a socalled peace package that can meet the approval of Congress and also fit within budgetary constraints. Clinton and the National Security Council will make the final decisions on the options now

being drafted. "We're working on details to fulfill the president's pledge. But so far, the work is only preliminary because we haven't been given a final set of numbers," a U.S. official said.

Options under review by White House officials include requesting a special supplemental bill for the 1995 budget to cover up to \$1 billion in military aid to Jordan or waiting until 1996 to incorporate the Jordanian programme into the 1996 foreign aid budget.

Jordan's need for military assistance is critical. Its 98,600-man military faces serious problems with aging equipment and a lack of spare parts since its failure to support the Persian Gulf war effort to expel Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

tant," Robert Satioff, executive director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said Nov. 4. "The Jordanians clearly have internal and external challenges. It is important to be sure they can meet them." With Jordan firmly sup-

porting the peace process, it faces possible challenges from Syria; Iraq and from Palestinians, he said. Options now being ex-

amined to help the Jordanian armed forces include the possible transfer of 24 used F-16A/B fighter's although high costs are a potential obstacle. As a new system it would require a considerable amount of new training, group support equipment and airfield construction.

The F-16s also might require upgrades to improve their safety. Moreover the operating costs for an F-16 squadron can be very high, particularly for financially strapped Jordan.

An option under review is to provide Jordan with up to \$190 million to upgrade the older fighters along with \$25 million to \$40 million annually to maintain and operate the new F-16 fleet. F-16 upgrades are estimated to cost at least \$7

million per plane. The up-"The principle of helping

## Majali: Jordan-Kuwait relations are improving

Prime minister delivers King's message to Qatari emir, reviews peace process

DOHA (Agencies) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday delivered a message from His Majesty King Hussein to Qatari Emir Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani

on bilateral relations. At a press conference following his audience with Sheikh Khalifa, Dr. Majali said he briefed the Qatari leader on the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and discussed with him issues of common interest, including scopes of cooperation in va-

Dr. Majali said there were positive and constructive signs about the restoration of normal relations with Kuwait, and referred to the recent exchange of visits by officials from both countries. Dr. Majali voiced hope

that Jordan-Kuwait relations will be restored to normal SOOD. Dr. Majali stressed the im-

portance of Arab solidarity, particularly at this time when a new world order is emerg-

He called on Arabs to leave their disputes aside and reschedule their differences, similar to debt rescheduling, if they want to have a say in the new world order and if they do not want such an order to be imposed on them.

He also called for restructuring the Arab League through setting up regional groups that would in turnform the body of the league, saying this would solve a lot of problems. Dr. Majali said Jordan was

punished because of its calls for Arab unity affirmed that the day the Arab Nation will unify its ranks is inevitably coming "because pan-Arab sentiments are now stronger than before." The prime minister said

Arab countries participated in the Madrid conference which launched the Middle East peace process in 1991 by their free will, while Israel was the party that was forced to participate in it. However, he stressed that all parties in the Arab-Israeli peace nego-

tiations will end up winners. "We will win, the other party will win. The profits will be material and moral; immediate or mediate; our iob was to show the other party its real gains so as to reap ours," said Dr. Majali, He said Israel's gains were

limited to its recognition of its existence in the region. These gains are moral, while the gains of Jordan, Syria; Lebanon, and Palestine are material, represented in regaining their lands and water and refugees' rights, he said: He stressed that Jordan

was seeking to address the Middle East problem in a scientific way rather than in an emotional way. He voiced regret over the

recent incidents in Gaza and called for having democracy and peaceful dialogue as the basis for competition between the Palestinians rather than fighting. Jordan and Israel, he said

will declare the establishment

(Continued on page 7)

## Lower House of Parliament urges Palestinian not to use violence

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Low- to a query by Deputy Bader er House of Parliament on Sunday issued a statement appealing to the Palestinians to abstain from infighting and prevent bloodshed.

the end of a regular session of the House, also called on the Palestinians to resort to dialogue to resolve disputes. At the outset of the ses-

The statement, issued at

sion, many deputies took the floor calling for such a statement to be issued following Friday's inter-Palestinian violence in the Gaza Strip. Speaking at the session.

attended by Acting Prime Minister Thougan Hindawi and cabinet members, the deputies expressed regret over the bloody incidents and urged the Palestinians to direct their efforts towards reconstructing their country and to contain the crisis. In its regular business of the day, the House listened to a reply by Industry and

Trade Minister Rima Khalaf

Al Rivati about the fate of the Jordan Glass Industries Company, The minister said that the

company's plant near Maan suspended its operations last December pending maintenance of its kiln which was malfunctioning. She said that the govern-

ment had decided to take measures to revive the plant's operations and maintenance of the kiln, replacement of old equipment and installation of new production lines. She said studies would be

conducted on marketing the production and JD 100,000 had been allocated for the study and a special committee had been formed to supervise it.

The company's workers will continue to receive their monthly pay despite the suspension of work, Dr. Khalaf told the House.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat re-

plied to a question by Deputy Hamed Abu Jamus concerning the water distribution programmes in the eastern districts of Amman.

The minister said studies and plans had been prepared and a tender would soon be announced for the installation of a new water network for the eastern districts. He said that the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) was keen on ensuring continued serviceto all population settlements and districts.

In reply to a query by Deputy Bassam Haddadin about the work of the administrative audit and inspec-. tion bureau, the House-listened to a statement by Prime Minister Abdul Salam. Majali read out on his behalf. The statement gave details about violations of rules and regulations by government. departments discovered and

(Continued on page 12)

rectified by the bureau.



(Continued from page 1)

it would seek revenge for the bloodshed against Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, its "true enemy," who ordered the crackdown on Islamic militants.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad have also vowed to redirect their anger at Israeli soldiers and settlers. Taking the threats serious-

ly, Mr. Rabin ordered extra troops rushed to the Gaza Strip to protect Jewish settlements and to the West Bank to prevent violence. There were angry state-

ments by leaders of both the PLO and Islamic fundamentalists of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups. But only isolated outbreaks of violence occurred as a shaky. truce held on the ground. Nabil Shaath, the PLO's

top peace negotiator, said Friday's rioting was the outgrowth of anger over Mr. Rabin's banning of Palestinians from jobs in Israel and the international donors failure to make good on aid

"This Palestinian land has been under siege and collective punishments by the Israelis for weeks, preventing our workers from attending their jobs, preventing our products from being ex-



Israeli soldiers guard arrested Palestinians after heavy clashes erupted in East Jerusalem Saturday

ported, preventing our fishermen from going to sea, and this has resulted in a catastrophe" he told reporters.

"The donors have given us

nothing but a trickle. Israel imposed the closure on Gaza after a wave of suicide bombings and other attacks by Islamic militants that claimed 30 Israeli lives in the past two months. Mr. Rabin has warned that Palestinian elections and the expansion of autonomy would depend on whether

violence continued. Dr. Shaath said every effort would be made to preserve the peace process, but Mr. Arafat's ability to press ahead could be seriously damaged because Islamic leaders made clear that they

"The Islamic forces don't want to make a struggle against the (PLO) authorities, but they want to wage a big battle against the Israeli soldiers," Sheikh Abdullah

would mount attacks on

Israeli targets.

Shami, 38, leader of the Islamic Jihad, who is wanted by both PLO and Israeli author-

Asked if pushing ahead with attacks on Israel would heat up the conflict with the PLO, he told the Associated Press: "You ask the Palestinian authority this question. Our strategy was and will be to attack the Israelis, and we are not responsible if (PLO leaders) put chains around their own necks."

## Alarm bells ring for Arafat

By Magida El Batsh Agence France Presse

GAZA CITY — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has been left dangerously exposed by Friday's bloodshed in Gaza, facing a threat from Islamic militants, economic disaster and pressure from Israel alike.

Two thousand fundamentalists marched through the streets of Gaza on Saturday chanting: "Arafat, take your ministers and

They ripped posters of Mr. Arafat from walls in the demonstration called by the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas.

crowd turned up outside Mr. Arafat's Gaza headquarters in response to a call by his Fateh faction to demonstrate their loyalty to the Palestine Liberation Organisation

". Since he arrived in the autonomous Strip in July, Mr. Arafat has failed to make

By Said Ghazali

The Associated Press

SHATI REFUGEE CAMP

- Palestinian policeman

Musa Abu Sultan does not

like to talk about his job. Too

many of his neighbours have

become disillusioned with the

security forces once cele-

On Saturday, Abu Sultan

wore a traditional robe and

checkered black-and-white

headdress rather than his

blue uniform as he accepted

condolences for his 33-year-

clashes between police and

Muslim worshippers that left

15 people dead and more

than 200 wounded. It was the

worst violence since Palesti-

nian autonomy began in

"It is very painful." said

Abu Sultan. "My nephew

Majdi was killed Friday in

brated as liberators.

old nephew. Majdi.

much headway in the three challenges facing his author-

There has been no arrangement so far between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Islamic fundamentalist groups. International aid has arrived at a trickle, while negotiations with Israel on extending autonomy have been de-

The tension which erupted into violence Friday, leaving 15 Palestinians dead and 200 wounded in clashes between Hamas supporters and the police, has been rising for Hamas and Islamic Jihad

which both oppose Palestinian self-rule, are benefiting In contrast, a far smaller from the people's increasing disillusionment and frustra-

Six months after the launch of self-rule, the hoped-for economic revival has failed to materialise, Israeli settlements and soldiers are still in Gaza, and Palestinians find it more and more difficult to travel into Israel for work.

was not killed by a Jew. but

Gaza City's central jail, said

his colleagues bungled the

job. "They could have used

water cannon. I just don't

understand why they did it,"

Nabil Shaath, a planning

minister in Yasser Arafat's

self-rule government, said

he said.

Saturday.

government.

Abu Sultan, who works in

by a Palestinian policeman."

"Three-quarters of the population live below the poverty line in the Gaza Strip," said Hazem Sarraj, of the Islamic Aid Committee. In the city, the walls tell the people's story.

They were repainted in white to wipe out anti-Israeli slogans when the PLO chief arrived. Now they are covered in anti-Arafat slogans.

"Go back to where you came from," is written on one wall. "Revenge, we will not forgive you," and "Arafat, you are an American agent," can be read on

The mood is equally aggressive on Fateh's side. 'If the Islamists want to push things to the limit, so will we," said Toufiq Abu Khussa a Fatch official. "We have had enough of doubledealers."

Meanwhile, Islamic attacks on Israeli targets in the selfrule areas are meeting with widespread support from Palestinians. Hamas, the only group

"The police for the first

months (were) so welcomed.

and protected by the people

that there was absolutely no

indication that the police

capable of competing with the Palestinian National Authority, is now looking to win back the power it wielded in Palestinian society under the Israeli military occupation.

The group wants to tap into power at the level of municipal authorities, though it will not discuss taking part in the administration of selfrule as Mr. Arafat has prop-

The United States, in a line also taken Egypt, said the Gaza battles signalled the urgent need to release the funds pledged to Palestinian self-

Until now the international community has handed over only \$100 million, despite pledging several billion dollars to help establish self-rule after Israel and the PLO signed the declaration of principles on autonomy in

Nabil Shaath, minister for international cooperation. said the PLO received 10 times more aid before it made peace with Israel.

## Palestinians disillusioned with police his rule — bore the brunt of

would ever (confront) the rubber bullets, tear-gas and people," he said. In May, when Israeli troops pulled out of Gaza and Mr. Arafat's forces moved in. Thousands of people lined the streets of the Gaza Strip. cheering the former guerrilla

police officers were not prefighters as liberators. pared for the stone-throwing In the weeks of euphoria protests that erupted after over the end of Israeli Friday noon prayers. occupation, ordinary Palesti-"It is obvious that the nians invited policemen into police was not and is not their homes for dinner or equipped to handle riots, gave them rides in their cars. Dr. Shaath told reporters Gasoline station owners filled

police cars for free. But as Mr. Arafat's gov-He acknowledged a decline ernment failed to meet exin the popularity of the 10,000 policemen who are the pectations of jobs and backbone of Mr. Arafat's prosperity, his policemen the most visible symbols of

Palestinian's frustration.

"They did not keep their promises and that is why people are treating them (police) as they treated Israeli soldiers," said Mahmoud Baroud, a Gaza City teacher.

Added Khalil Masri, a 50year-old barber from Shati: "I am very angry. My heart is bleeding. No one expected such a massacre from our own police.

The Muslim militant group Hamas, Mr. Arafat's main opposition, was quick to make political capital out of the violence.

Ribhi Rantisi, a Hamas mosque preacher addressing a crowd of about 30 at vegetable market, labelled the

policemen as outcasts. "We look at them as disgraced people. They are not part of us," he said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

## Algiers slams Rome meeting on Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — The Algerian government Sturday roundly criticised an unprecedented conference in Rome next week which aims to get some 30 Algerian opposition leaders to sit down and talk to senior fundamentalists.

Organised by Italy's Sant'Egidio community, a lay group created to help mediate in Third World conflicts, the two-day meeting starting Monday comes amid an upsurge in clashes that have been pitting Muslim militants against Algeria's secular military-backed authorities. for nearly three years. The Algerian Foreign

Ministry said Saturday that Algeria's ambassador in Rome had told Sant'Egidio that the conference was "inopportune and ambiguous." "A solution to Algeria's

internal problems can only be found in Algeria by Algerians," the ministry statement said. "Discussions on this prob-

lems cannot be transferred elsewhere. The Algerian government has never asked for foreign mediation, and neither does it tolerate any interference in the management of its internal affairs." Sant'Egidio has set modest

ambitions for the talks. Community spokesman Mario Marazziti said they were designed to establish preliminary contact between the two sides with a view to the still "remote prospect" of "real negotiations."

Algiers authorites have not acknowledged their invitation, while leaders of the Islamic Salvation Fronnt (FIS) in exile appeared divided over its value.

The outlawed FIS has been spearheading a guerrilla campaign against the government since the army stepped in to cancel January 1992 secondround elections that the Front was poised to win. More than 10,000 people

have died in the ensuing vio-Last month the government held talks with political

parties and urged the FIS to

ioin in.

There were separate contacts between the government and FIS leaders Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, who are under house arrest in Algeria, but President Liamine Zeroual declared the talks a failure and accused them of continuing to incite violence.

Sant'Egidio said FIS leaders-in-exile Anwar Haddam and Rabah Kebir were scheduled to attend the Rome talks, and that people close to the government would also take part.

But in Paris Saturday another FIS leader-in-exile, Sheikh Abdul Baki Sahraoui, said that "no FIS leader has been granted a mandate to represent (the organisation) or speak in its name." "The meeting does not

constitute a framework in which the grave crisis affecting our country should be discussed," he added. "Although praiseworthy,

this initiative does not incorporate in all respects the true protagonists of the Algerian drama," namely repre-



Lamine Zeronal

sentatives of the security forces and the Islamic Salvation Army, the FIS's military

Only bilateral talks between the FIS and the government could open the way to a political solution to the conflict, Mr. Sahraoui stres-

Sant'Egidio also announced the participation of former President Ahmad Ben Bella, the leaders of the National Liberation Front (FLN) and the Front of Socialist Forces (FFS), Abdul Hamid Mehri and Hocine Ait Ahmad, and senior figures from Algeria's religious, human rights and higher education communities.

The FLN and FFS both oppose Mr. Zeroual's strategy of armed confrontation with the militants. They and the FIS were Algeria's three leading political movements when the electoral process was interrupted.

"What we will tell the FIS is that we do not believe in violence as a means of solving

political problems," said Mr. Mehri. "We have not come here to open a dialogue with Algerian partners or with the government. The central issues must be dealt with in Algeria

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among Aigerians." Earlier this month, Mr. Zeroual promised presidential elections would be held by the end of next year but also pledged to continue the government programme to "eradicate" Muslim fun-

damentalists. According to unofficial figures, the conflict has claimed the lives of 195 armed fundamentalists since the start of November while. in a statement issued in Bonn, the FIS accused security forces of killing a thousand people between November 1 and 9.

Facing outrage by the military-backed regime. Algeria's Catholic hierarchy distanced itself from the talks in Rome.

Cardinal Etienne Duval of Algiers stated in a communique that the Sant'Egidio religious community's actions did not implicate Roman Catholic officialdom.

The FIS accused the Algerian security forces on Wednesday of torturing and killing more than 1,000 people and dumping the bodies on the streets in the first nine days of this month.

#### Sudan, Libya Helms opposes U.S. aim to revive presence in Golan merger pact WASHINGTON (AFP) —

CAIRO (R) - Sudan and Libya, neighbours both facing international isolation. aim to revive a largely unimplemented four-year-old integration pact, a leading Sudanese Islamist was quoted as saying on Sunday.

The Saudi-owned Al Hayat newspaper reported that Hassan Al Tourabi, who met Libyan leader Muammar-Qadhafi last week in the Libyan city of Tobruk, said that flie talks "strengthened my relations with Qadhafi after a long break."

"We hope to implement the apparatus for integration and (hope) that the two countries can benefit from their shared border to ease the embargo imposed on them

both. The United Nations has imposed a ban on all flights to or from Libya, as well as limited sanctions which prevent it from buying some oil industry equipment.

Sudan suffered a sharp cut. in foreign aid.

Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir, who seized power in 1989, signed a pact with Colonel Qadhafi a year later envisaging a complete merger of their neighbouring countries by 1994. Aside from trade cooperation under which Libya supplied Sudan with oil, little other progress was made.

Dr. Tourabi, secretarygeneral of the Khartoumbased Popular Arab and Islamic Council, said he discussed "problems of Islamic movements in Libya and North Africa" with the Libyan leader.

Al Hayat said General Bashir, Col. Qadhafi and Yemeni leader Ali Abdullah Saleh were expected to hold a summit meeting in Khartoum next month during celebrations for Sudan's 39 independence anniversary.

ment and the Arms Control

Conservative Republican Senator Jesse Heims, slated to take over the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Saturday he was opposed to sending U.S. military observers to support a Middle East peace.

"This whole peace process over there is a fraud, and you'd better look carefully at what's going on," Mr. Helms told CNN Television. "Syria doesn't want peace. They want the Golan

Heights. They want access to

the pocketbooks of the American taxpayers," added the senator from North Caro-Mr. Helms said he would vote against any administra-

tion effort to deploy U.S. troops as part of a peace agreement between Israel and Syria. Mr. Helms is likely the new chairman of the influential

committee when the Senate convenes in January. Recent elections swept the Democrats from control of both the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Republicans will now

have broad powers to determine U.S. policy at home and abroad, even though President Bill Clinton, a Democrat, still controls the White

Mr. Helms said he is also "totally opposed" to any plans to send U.S. aid to Bosnia to train an army

"Sooner or later we're going to get down to common sense and realise that we can't solve disputes with money and the blood of our people by interfering with things that have been going on for thousands of years,"

Mr. Helms has come out in favour of reducing U.S. foreign aid overall and possibly eliminating the U.S. Agency for International DevelopU.S. troops should be im-

mediately brought home from Haiti, said Mr. Helms. "They ought never to have been sent in there in the first place," he said. He said China should be excluded from international free trade agreements that Asia Pacific Economic Coop-

mineral resources to guarantee aid it-receives from the Mr. Helms also lashed out at Mr. Clinton as commander in chief of the U.S. armed forces, saying he is not up to

eration nations are planning

and Russia should use its

Mr. Helms did, however, consider Secretary of State Warren Christopher "a decent man" and said, "I think there'll be more agreement you might imagine between Warren Christopher and

Mr. Helms said he will oppose the Law of the Sea and biodiversity treaties, two major international environmental and economic agreements that require Senate ratification.

The ultra-conservative senator, 73, said that he wants to slow congressional review of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, a world trade pact. Mr. Clinton asked the out-going Congress to return to the Capitol for a rare session to approve the agreement which is slated to take effect in January 1995.

Some Republicans have spoken about the holding off on passing the agreement until the new Congress convenes. Mr. Helms said he favours pushing hearings back to late January.

"What in the world is wrong with delaying something that not two per cent of the American people know one thing in the world about?" Mr. Helms said.

## Iran protest Gaza clash TEHRAN (R) — Angry stu-

Students in

dents shouting "Down with Israel" protested outside the Palestinian diplomatic mission in Tehran on Sunday against the killing on Friday of 15 Gazans by Palestinian police, the Iran news agency IRNA said. It said the hundreds of

demonstrators also shouted "Arafat, a tool in the hands of Zionists" during the protest, referring to Yasser Ara-In a statement they called for the closure of the mission

and police arrested some students after they broke into the building, the agency said. "They said Arafat's hands were stained with the blood. of Gaza worshippers and that? his colleagues should no lon-

ger be allowed to continue their activities here," it said. Leading Tranian hardliner Ali Akbar Mohtashami, in an interview published on Sunday, called on Muslims to avenge the killing by target-

Protest in Syria

ton and Israeli leaders.

ing U.S. President Bill Clin-

Several thousand Palestinian refugees staged a protest in Damascus Sunday against Mr. Arafat for the bloodshed in Gaza City, a Palestinian group said.

Demonstrators at the Yarmouk camp on the southern outskirts of Damascus chanted anti-Arafat slogans, said an official of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

They accused Mr. Arafat of "carrying out Israeli orders leading to a Palestinian civil war," and demanded that those responsible for the violence be brought to trial, he The official said all the

Palestinian refugee camps in Syria staged a protest strike on Sunday.

HIJAZ RAILWAY

TRAIN

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5:00 p.m. every Monday

7:30 a.m. every Sunday

5:00 p.m. every Sunday

Arr. Damescus

Dep. Damascus

AIT. AIRIDAL

#### Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO Alice Au Pays Des Merveilles 17:30 ..... Un Pour Tous 18:06 .... Les Invention De La Vic

#### 06:04 ..... (Sunrise) Duha 11:21 ..... Dhuhr

CHURCHES Sweifleh. Tel. 810740 St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. German-speaking Evangelical Con-gregation Tel. 684195

#### Amman Tel. 811295 **WEATHER**

The Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tcl.675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in

ment of Meteorology. with a chance of showers. Winds

Descrits ...... 7 /18

Jordan Valley ...... 14 / 22

Yesterday's high temperatures:

#### Amman 20. Aqaba 26 Humidity readings: Amman 38 per cent, Aqaba 45 per cent USEFUL .

NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

TELEPHONE

Dr. Ghazi Abdullah	88428
Firas pharmacy	66191
Ferdows pharmacy	77833
Al Ascma pharmacy	63705
Nairoukh pharmacy	62367
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	64194
Shmcisani pharmacy	63766
Nairoujh pharmacy	62367.
Najib pharmacy	84763
IRBID:	
Dr. Mohammad Hilu	27977.
Alques pharmacy	

Dr. Akram Haddad ...... 985550

Khalifeh pharmacy ...,...... 985417

## **EMERGENCIES**

Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police 192, 621111.	637777
Fire Brigade	
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	943400
Traffic Police	642400
Public Security Department	6,91,521
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Amman Municipality Complaints	797111
Telephone Information	707111
distance into making the second	191
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephon	c
Repairs	
Abdali Telephone Repairs	441101
Action Telephonic Repairs	001101
Jordan Television	.775111
Radio Jordan	.774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authorin	

## HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann Akilch Maternity, J. Amn. Jabal Amman Maternity .... 642362 Malhas, J. Amman ...... 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 664171/4 Shmeisani Hospital ...... 669131 University Hospital ..... 845845 Al-Muasher Hospital .... 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/37 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26 Army, Marka ...... 891611/15 Oucen Alia Hospital ..., 602240/50 Amal Hospital ..... 674155 ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarga National Hospital Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732

(09)900560

## **QUEEN ALIA**

This information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

department at the Queen Alia In-

98:35 ..... 99:90 ..... Damascus (RJ) 09:15 ..... Riyadh (RJ 89:15 ..... Aqaba (RJ 99:40 ..... Now Delhi (RJ 89:55 ..... Beirut (RI 09:55 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RI) 16:50 ..... Cairo (RJ) 17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 19:16 ...... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ) 20:10 ..... Bangkok (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2) 09:35 ..... Cairo (MS) 12:35 .... Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF) 14:00 ..... Hudaideh (IY) ...... Khartoum (SD) ...... Kiev (6U' 17:05 ..... Rome (AZ) 18:15 ..... Dubai (EK

01:10 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 05:45 ..... Bcirut (RJ) ...... Aqaba (RJ) rdam, Chicago (RJ) ...... London (RJ) ..... Frankfurt (RJ)

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## Apple ..... 700/ 500 Banana ..... 680 Banana (Mukammar) ...... 620 Cabbage ...... 130 / 80 Cauliflower ..... 350/ 250 (GF) (SD) (6U) (EK) (KL)

## **JORDAN TELEVISION**

	THE PASSING PROPERTY OF THE AMERICAN
18:30	Le Vent Des Moisson
19:00	New in French
10-15	Maeazine Sporti
10-30	Magazine Sporti
20-00	Poorios Dina
20:00 .	Boogies Dine Ouantum Lea
20.30	Chada- aft A
ZI:10 .	Shades of L. A
ZZ:00 .	News in English
22:20	Headhunter
	PRAYER TIMES

## 16:39 ..... Maghreb

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Assemblies of God Church, Tel. Church of the Annunciation Tel.

De la Saile Church Tel. 661757

Terrasaucta Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tcl.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church Tcl. Evangelical Latheran Church Tel:

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-A depression will affect the Kingdom carly today. Temperatures are expected to drop, winds will build up and rainfall is prodicted over the whole country. Winds will become southwesterly. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy will be southerly and seas sought. Min/Max. temp. Amman ...... 8/15 Aqaba ..... 14/23

NIGHT DOTT
AMIMAN: Dr. Jamil Maraqa 776249 Dr. Nidal As'ad 751672 Dr. Khalid M'addi 743500 Dr. Ghazi Abdullah 884286 Firas pharmacy 661912 Ferdows pharmacy 637055 Nairoukh pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 644945 Shmeisani pharmacy 623672 Najroujh pharmacy 623672 Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID: Dr. Mohammad Hilu 279773 Alques pharmacy

#### Control Centre ...... 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Desence Immediate

Rescale ..... 630341

Blood Bank	1/3121
·Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	0.7407
Commissions	707111
Complaints	/0/111
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephon	c
Repairs	
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Indian Tolorina	777111
Jordan Television	. //3111
Radio Jordan	
Water Authority	
Jordan Electricity Authority	y
	815615
Electric Power	

RJ Flight Information .... 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

## AMMAN:

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990 Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275 (02)247100 Ibn Al Naices Hospital.

Princess Haya Hospital ...... (03)3[4]]]

AQABA:

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT**

ternational Airport Tel. (08)53200- 5, where it should always be veri- fied.	87:09 10:45 Arasterd 12:08
ARRIVALS	12:28 12:45 19:45 Bs
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97:26 Sanaa (RJ)	Other Flights
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Khartoum	15:30
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Durker !	19:15
Amsterdam	62-29

# Upper/lower price in file per kg.

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## House judiciary committee debates temporary JPA law

Association seeks to eliminate loopholes

Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN — A temporary law enacted by the government in 1983 governing the Jordan Press Association (JPA) was handed to the Judiciary Committee of the Lower House of Parlia-

ment for debate Sunday. The law, as issued in 1983, established regulations governing the journalists' union, but is ambiguous in its wording and is no longer congruent with Jordan's recent political and economic developments, said Suleiman Qudah, JPA president and editor-in-chief of Al Ra'i

daily newspaper. The JPA intends to submit several proposals later this week that it hopes will be incorporated into the law, eliminating the numerous loopholes that confuse its interpretation and implementation, said Mr. Oudab.

"Our proposals to (the committee) include an amendment of the law regarding membership, financial resources and representation on the JPA

board," Mr. Qudah said. Under current JPA law, minimum eligibility requirements for JPA membership have been difficult for a substantial number of journalists to meet. The law states that a journalist must have at least a secondary education and must have at least three years training at a JPArecognised newspaper to be



Spleiman Qudah a member.

However, said Mr. Qudah, "As we know, this is not the case with some journalists who had been working long before this law was enacted. Or what were we to do with journalists who had been working abroad for years or received training somewhere else? The law says they must have this training but they are professionals already. The law should be more flexible for us to deal with these problems."

New laws such as the 1993 Press and Publications Law and the Political Parties Law should also be factors influencing the JPA law, which currently prohibits membership of journalists affiliated with poli-

tical party papers. The committee last week made its first reading of the existing JPA law and was briefed by the director of Press and Publications, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Information and concerned JPA officials, according to commit-tee member. Islamic Action Front Deputy Ibrahim Zeid Kilani.

One of the most contentious issues in the JPA law .— representation on the JPA council — will also be addressed in the list of proposals.

The nine-member council today consists of three journalists, three newspaper owners and three Jordan News Agency, Petra, staff. The JPA is proposing that council members be elected directly from the JPA general assembly without regard to their positions in the profession.

Mr. Kilani said that although the committee deferred debate of the proposed law until next week, it did however debate the composition of the JPA. He said that the inclusion

of Petra staff in the association contradicts a recent ruling by the High Commission on Constitutional Law establishing that teachers, as civil servants, cannot unionise.

Mr. Qudah expects that the JPA will present their amendment proposals to the committee within the next two weeks and expressed his confidence that the Judiciary Committee would support most if not

all proposed amendments. "This committee is very liberal, much more than the last committee," he said. "They are very understanding of our problems."

## King confers medal on Qatari minister

Jordan, Qatar sign information cooperation accord

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday conferred on visiting Qatari Minister of Information and Culture Hamad Abdul Aziz Kuwari the Jordanian Al Kawkab Medal of the First Order in recognition of his distinguished efforts to promote Qatari-Jordanian cooperation in the fields of information and cul-

The medal was presented to Dr. Kuwari by Information Minister Jawad Al Anani following a ceremony for the signing of an executive programme to implement a Jordanian-Qatari agreement on information cooperation. Dr. Anani later presented Royal medals to the other members of the visiting

panying Dr. Kuwari. The Qatari minister voiced his appreciation for the Royal honour, emphasising the strong ties between the two countries.

Qatari delegation accom-

Dr. Anani and Dr. Kuwari had earlier signed the executive programme at the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation head office in the presence of the Qatari delegation and senior information ministry officials. Under the terms of the

programme the two sides agreed to the following: 1- In radio and television, they agree to exchange documentary and news materials, visits by concerned offi-

cials and folklore songs. They also agree to cooperate in training cadres in information, and in this respect, Jordan expressed readiness to offer expertise to Qatar, including organising training courses in television and radio-related fields. The two sides agree to cooperate in covering important sports events held in either country and will encourage joint radio and television productions and launch cooperation between the Jordanian and Qatari satellite channels. 2- In matters concerning

the national news agencies of Qatar and Jordan, the two sides agreed to promote cooperation in implementation of an agreement signed last June. They agree on exchanging publications and informational pamphlets, issued by either side, participating in book exhibitions organised in Qatar or Jordan, exchanging copies of laws and legislation issued in either country dealing with the copyrights on artistic, literary and cultural works, and in facilitating the mission of journalist delegations visiting from either

According to Dr. Kuwari, his visit to Jordan achieved its objectives.

For his part, Dr. Anani said the agreement has brought new life to its old predecessor and it is hoped that the two sides would utilise the executive programme in the best in-

Information Minister Jawad Al Anani and his Kuwari on Sunday sign a cooperation accord Qatari counterpart Hamad Abdul Aziz (Petra photo)

terest of the two countries which could embark on joint television and radio produc-

Dr. Kuwari extended an invitation to Dr. Anani to visit Qatar.

Earlier Sunday, Dr. Kuwari had said his country was interested in deepening cultural ties with Jordan and was prepared to revive a 1972

agreement with the Kingdom that expired in 1985. At a meeting with Minister of Culture Juma'a Hammad and senior ministry officials, the two sides examined a set of Jordanian proposals to en-

hance cooperation in cultural

the European Union (EU).

according to a ministry state-

It said the meeting will be

attended by representatives

from Jordan, six Arab and

seven foreign countries, in

arenas. The proposals included the exchange of books and other publications, visits by writers and lecturers, visits by folklore troupes and the orgamisation of festivals in each other's countries to introduce citizens to the art and culture of the other.

Other aspects of the proposals concern holding art exhibitions, exchanging visits by officials to national archives and documentation centres, and participating in conferences and seminars on culture in each other's coun-

Mr. Hammad and Dr.

Kuwari each said that their countries sought to upgrade the level of cultural exchanges between them and enhance brotherly ties between their peoples.

Mr. Hammad briefed the Qatari minister on the Minstry of Culture's programmes and activities.

After the meeting, the two ministers met with Deputy Prime Minister Thougan Hindawi at his office, where Dr. Kuwari expressed his satisfaction with the progress of cultural and informational relations between Qatar and the Kingdom.

## British Council chief reviews cooperation with RSS officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director of the British Council in Amman David Burton Sunday visited the Royal Scientific "Society (RSS) and discussed the prospect of joint underdent Said Alloush and several senior officials, according to

an RSS spokesperson. The discussions, said the spokesperson, focused on means to develop scientific and technical cooperation between Jordan and the United Kingdom through close cooperation between RSS and the British Council.

Dr. Alloush briefed the guest on RSS objectives and duties in the society's capacity as a national institution for research and industrial services.

He also noted that RSS activities are concentrated in

three major fields, namely scientific and technological research and development; providing technical consultafion and serives; and training. Dr. Alfoush welcomed the idea of extending bridges of

cooperation with the British Council, according to an RSS statement. The statement said Dr. Burton expressed his pleasure at visiting the RSS and underlined his council's desire to cement bilateral relations

which he added reflect the strong relations that have linked Jordan and the United Kingdom throughout the He also presented a briefing on the structural changes

that the British Council en-

deavours to achieve and re-

ferred to the importance of

the principle of shared interests in any of the projects which RSS and the British Council would jointly under-

Dr. Burton stressed that one of the British Council's objectives is to reactivate and facilitate contacts with the British institutions that share the same fields of interest.

He also underlined the British government's concern in advancing scientific cooperation in various fields, said the statement.

During the meeting, the directors of RSS centres discussed scientific cooperation between RSS and corresponding British institutions in the fields of environment, renewable energy, computer, testing of foodstuff, as well as accreditation of laboratories.

#### **Ministry** to reconsider laws on tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State and Acting Minister of Tourism Abdullah Jazi Sunday said the government was reconsidering all laws and legislation pertaining to the tourism industry with a view to amending them to meet current and future needs of tourism develop-

Speaking at a meeting in his office with tour and travel agency representatives in the Kingdom, Dr. Jazi said the ministry's various departments would cooperate fully with these private sector agents to help stimulate the country's tourism industry.

In reviewing obstacles and difficulties currently before tourism programmes, the minister said the government was determined to give the private sector a greater role in the implementation of national tourist programmes which would contribute to strengthening the economy.

Salt area water distribution project AMMAN (Petra) — The through the existing network is lost because of administra-

Four local firms to conduct JD 16m

Ministry of Water and Irrigation has contracted four local tive and technical reasons. firms to install water pump-Meanwhile, the Ministry of ing stations and water towers Water and Irrigation Sunday at 10 different locations in announced that it would be conducting a regional confer-According to Water Auence on water conservation in thority of Jordan (WAJ) farming, in cooperation with Secretary General Qusay the University of Jordan and

The three-day conference, lion project will start by midwhich begins today, will dis-December and be completed cuss water and irrigation poliby mid-1997. cies in the Arab region, water The project, financed plans and uses in Jordan, through a loan from the management of water re-European Investment Bank sources, water conservation as well as allocations from the methods drip irrigation WAJ budget, includes the methods, waste water recycilaying of water pipelines in ing and other relevant issues,

the city and its surroundings, Mr. Qteishat said. He said the WAJ found it necessary to proceed with this project in an effort to reduce the water pressure on the existing water network resulting from the obstacle of Salt's mountainous terrain.

Qteishat, who signed the con-

tracts Sunday, the JD 16 mil-

addition to concerned international organisations. The meeting is to convene Mr. Qteishat said the WAJ at the Ministry of Water and estimates that nearly 75 per cent of the water distributed Irrigation.

ment.



Residential area in Salt

## WHAT'S GOING ON

## FILM

- ☆ Film (in French) entitled "Le Juge Et L'Assassin" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- \* Film entitled "Greek to Gothic" (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khaled Khreis) at Darat Al Funun at 5:30 p.m.

## **NOVEL RECITAL**

Novel recital by Najmiyeh Hikmat at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:00 p.m.

## **EXHIBITIONS**

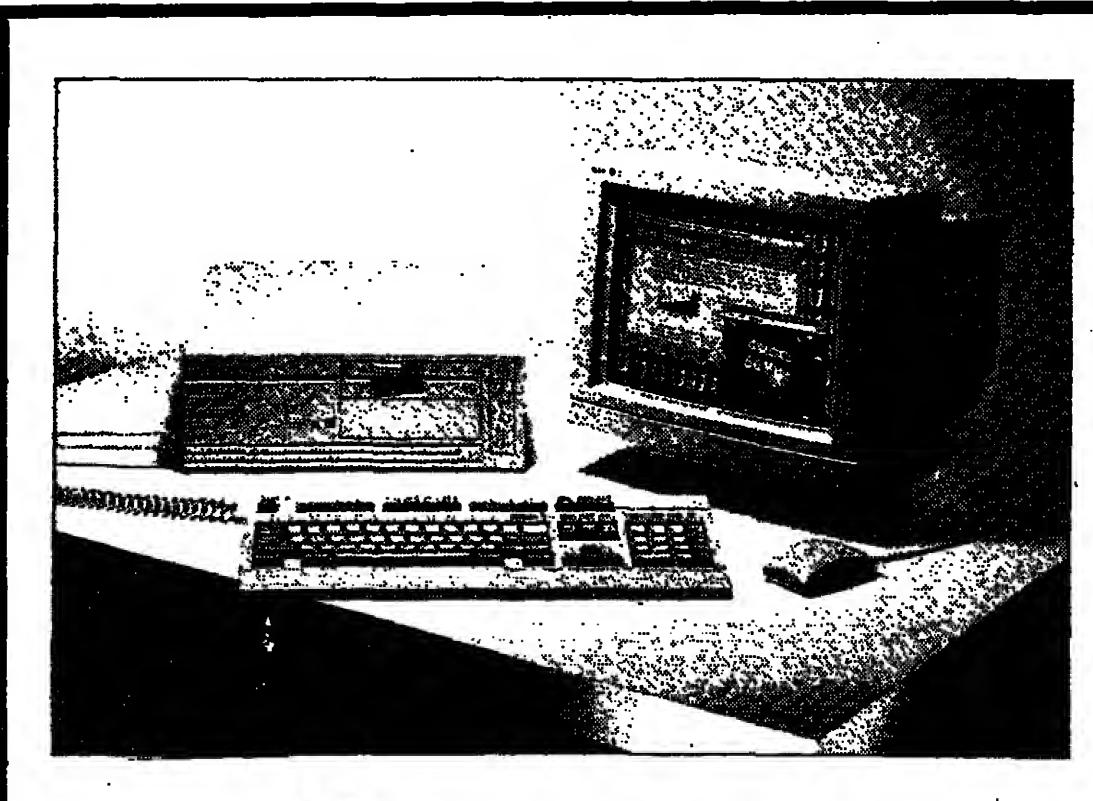
- \* Ceramics exhibition by Mahir Samarrai at Alia Art Gallery.
- ☆ Ceramics exhibition by Najwa Annab at the Orfali Art Gallery.
- ☆ Ceramics exhibition by Sa'id Al 'Ani at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art. Also showing a paintings exhibition by Husni Abu Karim.
- \* Exhibition on human international law entitled 'Drawings from Arab Calligraphy" at the Royal Cultural Centre. Also showing an exhibition of wooden products by Atallah Zabaneh.
- \* First Exhibition of Jordanian Engineering and Electric Products at the Amman International Exhibition hall, Marj Al Hamam.

#### OMAR .M. LATTOUF M.D., Ph.D. Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgeon

- Associate professor of Surgery / Emory University - School of Medicine - Atlanta, Georgia
- Ex-Chief, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery -Georgia Baptist Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia • Fellow American College of Surgeons.
- Diplomat in JARVIK 7 Mechanical Heart Transplantation / University of Utah. Diplomat American Board of Thoracic Surgery.
- Diplomat American Board of Surgery. Diplomat International Society of Heart & Lung

Transplantation -Announces the Opening of his Clinic in Jabal Amman, opposite the Hotel Inter. Continental Jordan, near the Algerian

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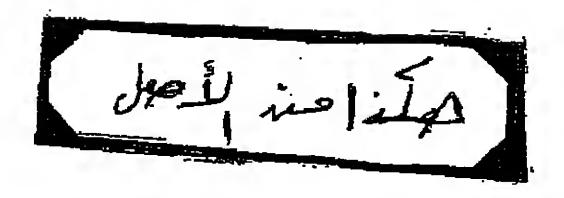
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## Angolan foes sign peace pact

tos for their peace efforts.

cult to reconcile in order to

consolidate national recon-

ciliation," Mr. Beye said.

"Savinibi contributed in a sig-

nificant way to the comple-

tion of the peace process."

Sunday's accord is the cli-

max to tortuous negotiations

to stop a war that has killed

hundreds of thousands of

people, turned millions of

others into refugees and

brought the oil- and di-

amond-rich southern African

African heads of state led

by Zimbabwean President

Robert Mugabe, head of the

southern Africa's frontline

states charged with ending

regional conflicts, and Zam-

luba, made no statement af-

ter meeting Saturday. They

had been due to meet again

Sunday prior to the signing.

Last week's signing cere-

country to its knees.

LUSAKA (R) — Angola's civil war foes signed an agreement Sunday to end 19 years. of fighting but diplomats said UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi's decision to delegate signing to a lower official diminished the accord.

The agreement was signed by Angolan Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura and UN-ITA Secretary-General Eugenio Manuvakola in the Zambian capital Lusaka.

Peacemakers including U.N. chief negotiator Alioune Blondin Beye, could barely hide their anger at Mr. Savimbi for his last-minute decision to spurn an Angoland government guarantee of safe passage and send a subordinate to sign the accord.

Mr. Savimbi's failure to show up in Lusaka, despite pleas for him to sign from world leaders including U.S. President Bill Clinton, was seen by Angolan and other African officials as a snub.

"This protocol can't stop the fighting. It has no value because Savimbi has not signed it. There is a lot of distrust," one-Angolan state negotiator said.

A senior Zimbabwean official added: "This diminishes the whole peace process. There is no seriousness."

But a Zambian official told Reuters as ushers led diplomats and southern African leaders to seats at a large. round table in the whitewashed Mulungushi Centre that the accord could still end Angola's war, which has been fought continuously since independence from Portugal in

"This is surely history in the making for the long-suffering Angolan people, for southern Africa and the world. Hopefully after today more tears," the official said.

Mr. Beye, who negotiated the accord in Zambia over the past year, praised both Mr. Savimbi and Angolan

mony was postponed after President Eduardo Dos San-UNITA refused to sign because of a government milit-"Dos Santos put aside ary offensive against rebel legitimate considerations strongholds. which would have been diffi-

UNITA's headquarters at Huambo, in central Angola, were overrun by government troops who later took over other rebel-controlled areas in the north.

UNITA charged that this was a violation of the accord, initialled by the two sides on Oct. 31, and a truce they declared on Nov. 15. The government said the war was not over until a ceasefire took effect — two days after the pact's formal signing.

Zambian and U.N. sources said the United Nations had warned the Angolan government to stop its offensive once the peace agreement

was signed Sunday. "The U.N. has made it clear they will deal with the Angolan government firmly should it continue fighting after tomorrow's signing, one Zambian official said.

Norwegians

46% of

against



Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev addresses deputies of the State Duma (lower house of parliament) in Moscow Gen. Grachev

told parliament that the Russian army is in a catastrophic state and on the verge of collapse (AFP photo)

## Russian military is in deepest crisis since Soviet collapse

MOSCOW (AP) — Beset by grudge against Gen. Grachev corruption scandals and infighting at the top, grappling with budget cuts and slumping morale, the Russian military is mired in its deepest crisis since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

Fifty years after Red Army soldiers rolled over Nazi Germany, their sons and grandsons live in tents like squatters. Mothers mourn young conscripts killed by brutal hazing. Draft evasion is rampant. The electric company even cut the power to the nuclear forces once because of unpaid bills.

The top brass is tranished by allegations that corrupt officers are enriching themselves while recruits scrape by on near-starvation rations. Some are even accused of committing murder to cover

their tracks. The military's problems have become political as never before. There are calls in parliament for Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's ouster. Even President Boris Yeltsin, who has consistently backed Gen. Grachev, now

sharply criticies the military. It has been a topsy-turvy fall from last year, when the army backed Mr. Yeltstin with tanks and troops in his battle with hardliners in the

reward his troops. He raised their salaries, exempted them from income taxes, scaled back defence conversion programmes and pushed through a long-awaited military doctrine to define the army's role in post-Soviet Russia. The military's pre-

But political realities and a sour economy have taken their toll.

old, Soviet-era parliament. Mr. Yeltsin was quick to

stige seemed ensured.

Hardliners hold a bitter tion abound. There are stor-

for standing by Mr. Yeltsin during the October 1993 confrontation. The corruption charges have given them a chance to push for his ouster. Mr. Yeltsin's gratitude also

had its limits. He has pressured reluctant generals to trim the size of the armed The military got just half of

what it asked for in 1994 from a government desperate to cut spending and rein in inflation. The proposed 1995 budget keeps spending at cur-In a heated session of par-

liament Friday, Gen. Grachev blamed virtually all his problems on money. He threatened to defy orders to cut the armed forces from its current 2 million troops, saying it would be impossible without a bigger budget.

Thousands of soldiers who came home with the withdrawal from Germany and the Baltics this year found themselves part of what Gen. Grachev calls "the army of 150,000 homeless officers."

Most of them "literally have ended up in the field," the newspaper Nezavisimaya Gazeta said. "Officers and their families are living in tents and barracks."

Morale also is low because the officers who pledged allegiance to the former Soviet Union now have no empire to defend. They are ordered to cooperate with former enemies in a new world order they see as dominated by the United States.

"The collapse of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact," Gen. Grachev said, "was a profound trauma which has yet to be over-

Reports of army corrup-

ies of soldiers selling weapons and military property, of lavish homes built for generals, of military airplanes transporting stolen cars, of mafia recruiters luring soldiers into their service.

A low point came last month, when a briefcase bomb killed Dmitry Kholodov, 27, a reporter for the daily Moskovsky Komso-

Mr. Kholodov was investigating corruption in the military's Western Group, which recently pulled out of Germany. His newspaper has charged that top defence officials were behind Mr. Kholodov's killing.

Although Mr. Yeltsin stuck up for Gen. Grachev, he fired the former commander of the Western Group, a man Gen. Grachev had promoted to deputy defence minister. Mr. Yeltsin said he did it to "protect the honour" of the army.

Gen. Grachev insists the murder allegations are a "dirty political" game masterminded either by foreign spies or those who want to

seize power in Russia. There are also reports of deep splits within the Defence Ministry over Gen. Grachev's leadership. Those who openly aspire to his job include Gen. Alexander Lebed, a darling of the hardliners who once said Russia needs a dictator like Chile's Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

The crisis of financing, leadership and spirit poses a test for the army - and the

"Either the army will overcome the crisis... or it will decompose and turn into a criminal structure mortally dangerous for our society, wrote the weekly Moscow

fire since Jan. 12 and the

army has thousands of troops

in position around the guer-

rilia strongholds. At least 145

people died in the opening

manding indigenous clandes-

#### Cinemas told to cancel The **Fugitive**

BELING (AP) — Eager

filmgoers hoping to see Har-

rison Ford in The Fugitive

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went away grumbling this week after officials told Beijing theatres to stop showing the popular Hollywood movie. The film, regarded as the first top-rate foreign commercial film ever screened in Communist China, played to packed houses around the country after it opened Nov. 12. But Beijing officials have banned screenings in the city, to protect the domestic film distribution industry from U.S. filmmakers trying to "invade" China's movie market, the official China Business Times reported Saturday. The newspaper said the film was cancelled because some officials who oversee the film industry believed that showing the movie would allow foreign distributors to muscle domestic films out of the market. It said U.S. filmmakers wanted not only profit, but also to "influence future generations of Chinese with Western thinking." Although billboards for the film still adorned several Beijing cinemas Saturday, notices outside said it had been cancelled "because of unforeseen circumstances." Showing in place of The Fugitive were several older, more obscure U.S. films. When the ticket taker in theatre tried to convince disappointed moviegoers to see one of those films, she drew only shrugs and turned backs. "Those are all old," one young man murmured to his girlfriend before they walked away. Staff at two Beijing theatres said they had been instructed to replace it with different movies because of a disagreement among the officials in charge. It was unclear exactly when the theatres were forced to stop showing the film or how many people had seen it. The newspaper said it looked into the matter after receiving many phone calls from its readers.

## AIDS victim gets 12 years for

armed robberies ROUEN, France (AFP) — A 🗆 French court has sentenced a man suffering from the final stages of AIDS to 12 years in jail for two armed robberies committed in this northern French town in 1988, judicial officials said Saturday. Eric Muguet, 30, had already received a 10-year sentence in March 1991 for another armed robbery in the French Alpine town of Chambery. Mr. Muguet and two accomplices, who netted 170,000 francs (\$32,000), were identified by surveillance cameras at the two banks they stole from, but only Muguet was arrested. He denied the charges. Mr. Muguet's defence lawyer had pleaded for his client to be let off given his state of health. He contracted acquired immune deficiency syndroms (AIDS) virus following a blood transfusion in 1983.

#### Sperm donor declared legal

father NEW YORK (AFP) - A court declared a sperm donor the legal father of a girl borne of his artificially inseminated semen and said he could demand visitation rights with the child. The New York Appeals Court ruling will allow Thomas Steel, a 44year-old gay man from California who donated his sperm to a lesbian, to see his 13year-old daughter regularly. The girl's mother, Sandra Russo, had tried to block the visits, saying she would never have accepted Steel's sperm if she had known that he would seek visitation rights. In April last year, a judge had refused to grant Mr. Steel visitation rights on the grounds that he did not attempt to contact the child until she was three years old.

#### Man steals entire condom machine

WATERFORD, Michigan (AFP) — A man who wrapped up a night's beer drinking by allegedly stealing a condom machine from the men's bathroom of an Irish-style pub could face four years in prison. "It didn't take our officers long to solve the great condom caper," said police spokesman John Grimm. "There were lots of witnesses and he went straight home." Keith Bradford. 34, drank three beers before going into the bathroom, according to the Irish Tavern's bartender, who said moments later she saw him walking down the street with the machine.

## Congress Party is losing support in key Indian state, poll says

BANGALORE, India (R)— Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress Party has lost substantial support in the southern Karnataka state where it is fighting crucial assembly elections in the next two weeks, an opinion poll said.

The poll by Delhi-based Current Opinion and Future Trends (COFT), made available to Reuters Sunday, said the Congress would win 55 to 60 seats in the 224-member assembly, a sharp fall from its three-fourths majority in the 1989 elections.

Mr. Rao needs to win in Karnataka and in his home state of Andhra Pradesh to

gress Party in Delhi. The COFT poll said the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which has never won power in any southern state, was the single largest party with a chance of getting to 60 to 70 seats.

The centrist Janata Dal with 55-65 and the breakaway Karnataka Congress Party of former Congress Chief Minister S. Bangárappa as the fourth contender with 25-30

Congress officials deny that the state polls, including Goa and Sikkim which held elections earlier this month were a referendum on Mr. Rao's three-year-old rule.

But they admit that . defeat.

his economic reforms programme. Mr. Rao is projecting the reforms as the main achievement of his rule.

The poll said support for the Congress in Karnataka was the highest at 29 per cent followed by BJP's 24 per

In spite of having the highest COFT support index, the Congress is not leading in maximum number of seats, it said. "The electoral spread of votes is working against the Congress whose votes are scattered almost uniformly.

Several other opinion polls have predicted a hung assembly in Karnataka where elections will be held on Nov. 26

#### keep his hold on the Conin the states could slow down and Dec. 1,

(AFP) — Miss-India, Aishwarya Rai, 21, was crowned Miss World 1994 here late Saturday, and promptly burst into tears.

She beat 86 other contestants in this casino resort in - Questioned prior to her \*northern South Africa to win the title, worth nearly half a million dollars in prizes, including \$80,000 in cash. '-Miss South Africa, Baset-

sane Makgalemele, 20, was placed second and Miss Venezuela, Irene Ferreira Iz-

quierdo, 18, third. "I can't believe it," Ms.

SUN CITY. South Africa going Miss World, Lisa Hanna of Jamaica, placed the crown on her head. "I don't know why I'm

> crying," she added. "This is the happiest moment of my victory by one of the nine

> jury members, she said that, if she won the crown, she would "act with compassion for the least privileged" in

She also spoke out infavour of world peace, expressing sentiments largely inspired by Hinduism and Buddhism.

Miss India crowned Miss World Ms. Rai, an architecture student whose main hobby is dancing, stands 1.70 metres (5ft 7in), tall. --

She is only the second Indian to be crowned Miss World since the contest was launched in 1951, after Reita Faria in 1966. She was also judged the most photogenic by the photographers covering the event.

Makgalemele, the first black woman to elected Miss South Africa, received a rapturous reception from the crowd at Sun City, the venue for the contest for the third year in succession.



Video-grabbed picture from the BBC of TV first ever draw of the British National Lottery. and the bonus number were chosen for the photo)

## Millions win U.K. lottery but no millionaires

LONDON (R) — Britain's new National Lottery produced more tha a million winners but no instant millionaire.

- Gambling fever seized the imagination of British punters who hoped to beat jackpot odds of 14 million to one, with 25 million tickets bought in the country's first lottery since 1826.

The organisers were taken by surprise as 1.1 million people won the minimum £10 (\$15.69) prize for selecting three of the six lucky numbers. This reduced the jackpot, with seven big winners each collecting £839,778 ₹\$1.32 million),

A bride bought a ticket on ther way to church, a 100wear-old pensioner tried to win herself a holiday in Wales and a businessman hoped to win enough to build a new

theatre. Patients at the top-security : Broadmoor Prison, whose inmates include the "Yorkshire ripper" prostitute killer Peter Sutcliffe, were even allowed by their warders to buy

About 30 million viewers — more than half the nation - were glued to their television screens Saturday for the

The organisers called the lottery "an astounding success" but, with no big winners, promoters of the rival football pools were quick to gloat — they expect a \$2 million (\$3,143millin) winner from this weekend's soccer results.

David Rigg, communications director for the lottery organisers Camelot, said he expected next week's jackpot could total £4 million (\$6.27 million).

"We always believed that. the National Cottery would? for the first licensed lottery be a great success over time but the enthusiasm with which the public have embraced the game so quickly is remarkable," he said.

Camelot has a team of legal and financial advisers on hand to help the winners who

can request anonymity. But one tabloid newspaper offered a £10,000 (\$15,690) reward for anyone who could

identify a jackpot winner. Psychic "Mystic Meg" assured televisions viewers that all the winners' names started with J and they were born under the star sign Scorpio and married to either a Taurus or an Aquarius.

Half the proceeds were paid out in winnings and 28 per cent went to charities, the arts, sports, the national heritage and a special millenium fund set up to celebrate the year 2000.

The rest goes on costs, commission and tax. Lotteries have a long history in Britain. Tickets were sold at the door of St. Paul's churchyard in London in 1569. National Lottery money freed English slaves in

Tunis in 1660.

Lotteries were outlawed in 1826 after treasury officials ran off with the proceeds.

## joining EU — poll

OSLO (AFP) — Forty six per cent of Norwegians remain opposed to joining the European Union (EU) just a week ahead of a referendum vote while 38 per cent are in favour and 19 per cent undecided, according to a poll published Sunday.

The poll, carried out by the MMI Institute and published in the daily Dagbladet, showed a fall of three per cent in the "no" vote compared to results of a similar poll saturday, while "yes" voters increased by five points and those undecided

fell by two. Saturday's poll involving 1,226 people said that if one excludes those undecided the results mean that 54 per cent of the Norwegians are against membership and 46 per cent are in favour.

Norway next Sunday will be the last of four applicant states to hold a referendum on joining the EU. Austria, to join the EU on Jan. 1,

Meanwhile Finland's autonomous Aaland Islands were voting Sunday in a referendum on whether to follow their fellow Finns into the European Union. Some 18,000 voters were

eligible to take part in the vote, the results of which were eligible to take part in the vote, the results of which were expected after 1930 GMT.

Opinion polls predicted that voters would vote in favour of joining the EU in liner with similar decisions on the mainland and in Sweden.

The 6,500 Aaland Islands, situated in the Baltic with a total population of 25,000, obtained permission in September from Finnish President Martti Antisaari to hold their own vote Sunday, the mainland having already decided to back EU membership by 56.9 per cent to 43.1 per cent in an Oct. 16 referendum.

An autonomy arrangement dating from 1922 gives the Aalands' own Lagting Assembly the right to approve any treaty adopted by Finland which concerns the islands in any way.

#### Mexican rebels 'ready for more war' again through the air, the They and the Mexican army have observed a cease-

MEXICO CITY (R) — Indigenous guerillas in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas are "ready for more war" and are supported by armed groups in other parts of the country, rebel leader Marcos said in a speech. "Brothers, the war is not

over," Com. Marcos told troops and supporters of the self-styled Zapatista National Liberation Army at a ceremony in the Lacandon jungle earlier this week to mark the -11th anniversary of the foundation of the rebel

"We are ready... if it is the order of our leaders, we, the mountain warriors... will fly.

shadows and the land to speak the word of fire and

Com. Marcos gave no in-

dication of when an order to resume fighting might come from the rebel leadership. His speech, using imagery drawn from indigenous Maya lore, was published Saturday in several Mexican newspap-

land reform and greater democracy.

The Zapatista guerrillas, most of them Mayan peasants, rose up in arms on Jan. 1 to protest against repression of Mexico's indigenous peoples and to push for

days of the conflict. "Zapatista arms are ready to rise up in the mountains of the north of Mexico, in the northwest, the south, the east and the centre of our country," said Com. Marcos, who as Zapatista military leader and spokesman follows orders from the rebels' com-

tine Revolutionary Commit-

tor. This is unfortunate," Mr. Sengupta claimed. Mr. Sengupta said the opposition had tried to reach an agreement through dialogue and would now pursue its goal by other means. "The

Commonwealth's failure will

neither affect or change our

of a mediator but an arbitra-

position." he said. Meanwhile, two leaders of the pro-government student. group Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were shot dead in clashes with militant Islamic rivals in Chittagong port city

Police said Mohammad Zamir, 25, died of bullet wounds while nearly 20 other people were injured as activists from the JCD, the student wing of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), and the Islami Chhatra Shibir fought with homemade bombs, guns and

uddin, said a second JCD leader, Janaggir Alam, was killed when Shibir members sprayed him with bullets during the clash. "The city is very tense,"

BNP had asked police to arrest the killers if they wanted to avert more violence. Some 25 vehicles were damaged, mostly by stoning. as the fighting spread onto nearby streets, one police

one police officer told repor-

ters. Mr. Nasruddin said

officer said. The institute is a stronghold of the JCD but Shibir, the student wing of the fundamentalist Jamaat-E-Islami Party, had been seeking its control for years. Chittagong officials said,

began regrouping soon apparently for another showdown, they said. Police said JCD activists and sympathiers put up barri-

cades on the roads and

clashed with police trying to

clear them.

Police drove off the fighters by using batons but they

#### presenter Noel Edmunds after the six numbers on BBC-1's The National Lottery Live (AFP Commonwealth envoy: Bangladesh mission failed DHAKA (R) — Common- lacking wisdom and tolerance oted himself to the position

wealth envoy Sir Ninian Stephen said Sunday he had failed to end Bangladesh's protracted political crisis and would leave the country soon. "I hope there can still be a

tion of the issues that today divide your political parties," he told a news briefing. "But I am so disappointed that I have not been successful in doing that," he said in a

peaceful and speedy resolu-

statement, refusing questions. "Violence and uproar will achieve nothing. I urge the people of Bangladesh not to go down that road," he said, in comments which dismayed opposition politicians.

"Lady Stephen and I will be leaving Bangladesh very soon. Unfortunately, barring unforeseen and unlikely developments... I will not be able to report a successful outcome of my mission," he said. He arrived in Bangladesh on Oct. 13.

Sir Ninian criticised Bang-

During his visit, both government and opposition refused all efforts toward comprom-The opposition have boycotted parliament since February and mounted other

protests to try to force the

and said "suspicion and mis-

trust are both deep strong."

government to resign and call fresh polls. The elected government need not call new polls until

"After very many conversations with all concerned, I put forward further proposals which I am confident that, if agreed and properly implemented, would address the concerns of both sides, thereby permitting a resolution of the current impasse," Sir Ninian said, without ela-

Suranjit Sengupta, a senior opposition leader, said he was not aware of any proposals made by Sir Ninian. "Appointed as a facilitator

borating.

ladeshi political parties for . Stephen has not only prom-

by the Commonwealth,

Sunday, police and officials

knives at the Chittagong

said.

Polytechnic Institute. Chittagong city chief of the BNP, Mir Mohammad NasirNepal

say vote

has cut

election results.

ing and counting," said

Madhav Kumar Nepal.

general secretary of the Com-

munist Unified Marxist-

Leninist (UML) Front.

against the party and the

government was afraid when

UML started getting popular

support," he told a news con-

ference. "We will go to court

against this rigging im-

The Communists led Con-

gress by 86 seats to 75 with

only 12 seats in the 205-seat

parliament yet to be decided.

meaning neither could win

the 103 seats needed for an

Congress had been as

many as two dozen seats be-

hind the Communists follow-

gained ground in late results

King Birendra set up a

special tribunal before the

elections to judge any com-

plaints of polling malprac-

An international group of

observers invited by Nepali

human rights Organisations to

monitor the elections re-

leased a report last week

saying while the polls were

generally fair and free, there

had been irregularities, com-

mitted mostly by Congress.

five districts, because of the

mainractices of the govern-

opposition (UML) has been

"According to our in-

formation, the Nepali Con-

gress in its defeated psycholo-

gritied to create trouble," he

thorities had barred the UML

from observing vote counting

been found in ballot boxes.

Without an overall major-

ity in parliament, the Com-

munists continued to pin

their hopes on attracting dis-

sident Congress lawmakers

who abandoned Prime Minis-

ter Girija Prasad Koirala in a

vote of confidence last July,

The Communists sounded

out Congress chief Krishna

Prased Bhattarai as well as

elder statesman and former

Congress leader Ganesh Man

Singh, to whom many of the

anti-Koirala congressmen are

loyal, about joining a coali-

mate is a pertinent question,"

UML President Man Mohan

Adhikary, widely expected to

become the next prime minis-

ter, told Reuters in an inter-

Singh," Mr. Adhikary said.

"If he and his supporters can

come out and support us,

"Bhattarai is ready to

cooperate with us but he told

us to wait for a few days for

The UML general secret-

ary said the Communist Party

.was "ready and its doors are

open" to talks with all

are not going to support us to

form the government, then

there will be no alternative to

going to another poli," Mr.

Under Nepal's four-year-

old constitution, in the event

of a hung parliament King

Birendra names as prime

minister the parliamentarian

he considers able to form a

'If other political parties

all the results to come in.

then it would be good.

Mr. Nepal said.

Nepal said.

We are constantly in

with Ganesh Man

"How to break this stale-

triggering the snap polls.

many without signatures.

claiming election au-

bundles of votes had

converted into our defeat,

Mr. Nepal said,

"In some constituencies in

the victory of the

Tuesday's voting but

outright majority.

at the weekend.

"There is a conspiracy

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workable coalition governentire condon

if no lawmaker can command a majority, then the ting must choose the leader of the parliamentary party with the most seats. If a coalition fails to win a vote of confidence within 30 days. fresh polis must be called

within six months. Despite its eleventh-hour gains, Congress, which conceded defeat Saturday, showed no eagerness to try to form a coalinon government

"Since the people have voted us in a minority, they Want us to go and sit in the minority," Congress spokesman Mahesh Acharya said. "We will do that."

given the deeply divided par-



French President François Mitterrand (centre) lays a wreath during a ceremony to mark the 20th anniversary of a coal mine disaster in which 42 perished in the northern French

mining town of Liéven. Mr. Mitterrand bid farewell to his Socialist Party as the party met here to try to define a strategy for presidential elections due next spring (AFP photo)

## Delors is shot in the arm for Socialists

LIEVIN, France (AFP) — A revived French Socialist Party made a new bid for power Sunday with Jacques Delors as its almost certain candidate, posing a serious threat to the right in next spring's presidential elections.

Cheered on by President Francois Mitterrand who made a special appearance here as the party staged a national congress, the Socialists endorsed a left-wing political platform denouncing "economic liberalism" and "neocapitalism,"

But most of them also gave spoken or unspoken support to Mr. Delors, a social democrat on the right of the party, who, if elected next May, will likely be obliged to make alliances with the centre and even further right.

In his first direct gesture of support so far, party First Secretary Henri Emmanuelli Sunday called on Mr. Delors to stand, saying it was his "duty" and adding to loud applause, "If you make up your mind to do it, we shall all be with you."

Mr. Emmanuelli, who was confirmed as first secretary by 87.57 per cent of delegates, said the vast majority of Socialists backed Mr. Deiors and there was no contradiction between a leftist party programme and a centrist presidential candidate.

The Socialists are down to 53 seats in the 577-member National Assembly, and until Mr. Delors, the 69-year-old outgoing European Commission president, emerged as a serious potential candidate, they had little prospect of making a comeback after their rout in legislative elections in March, 1993.

The outgoing European Commission chief is riding high in opinion polls and presenting a major threat to a deeply divided right.

The ailing Mitterrand, suffering from prostate cancer but on form, Saturday bade farewell in this northern mining town to the party he founded in 1971, but at the same time rallied it with a call to "force victory" in the pres-

Mr. Mitterrand, 78, was not at the congress, staged in an athletics stadium, but attended a ceremony close by to mark the 20th anniversary of a coal mine disaster here in which 42 perished.

He told an enthusiastic crowd of miners and most of the 2,000 Socialist delegates who flocked from the congress to greet him: "I made a point of being with you. Here are gathered together the women and the men at whose side I fought for so long and whom I am happay to meet again."

At the stadium overlooking a landscape of slag heaps and abandoned mines, other Socialist barons had earlier backed Mr. Delors. Outside the stadium, amid giant red rose-and-fist Socialist emblems, his supporters waved banners saying "Delors for president" and "Delors candidate."

Former Prime Minister Laurent Fabius said the congress markied "the rebirth of hope" echoing another expremier. Pierre Maurov in backing Mr. Delors. So did Mr. Delor's own daughter, Martine Aubry, 44, a rising

star in the party and media

Only two speakers came out full against Mr. Delors, Senator Jean-Luc Melenchon and MP Julien Dray, on the far left of the party.

The European Commission president, a cardcarrying member, did not attend the congress.

Mr. Mitterrand has strongly backed Mr. Delors to succeed him and his visit to Liéven, a bastion of socialism which voted for him by 79 per cent in 1988 when he was elected for a second sevenyear term, was intended as a symbol.

But on Saturday he gave no formal hint of who was his favourite for the presidential contest, joking: "Elect whoever you like, preferably erm... a (Socialist), it would be better than the other way round."

Mr. Mitterreand was responding to a warning by undeclared candidate Edouard Balladur, the conservative prime minister, Friday that right-wing disunity risked letting through a Socialist for the third time.

"The essential is to make sure that it is not the Socialist candidate who is elected for the third time," Mr. Balladur said, giving the measure of the Delors threat.

The Lievin congress did not formally invest Mr. Delors. A special party convention will be staged at the end of January formally to choose a Socialist candidate. Party spokesman Jean Glavany said the convention would work out a "contract" with him and a presidential plat-



Junior, the nine-year-old son of East Timorese guerrillas, plays with a self-made bow and arrow at an orphanage in Venilale, about 120 kilometres from the East Timor capital of Dili. Junior's parents are leaving him in the orphanage's care while they fight against Indonesian government forces for East Timorese independence (AFP photo)

## E. Timorese attend mass for peace

DILI, East Timor (R) -Catholics in East Timor's capital Dili attended mass Sunday and prayed for peace in the troubled former Portuguese colony that has been rocked by week-long proindependence protests.

Meanwhile, two East Timorese protesters from a group of 29 youths holed up in the U.S. embassy compound in Jakarta for the last eight days were taken to hospital Sunday afternoon.

The group earlier met with representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for the first time. The ICRC has said it would help prepare travel documents for the youths if they decide to seek asylum.

In one of the biggest turnouts for mass, some 1,000 East Timorese crammed into a small open space at the Dili home of the outspoken Bishop Carlos Belo to say the presence of plain-clothed prayers and sing hymns. security officials by merely

Bishop Belo, who gave a sermon in the native Tetu language, called on the hundreds of youths present to exercise restraint and not aggravate tension in the tiny territory which Indonesia invaded in 1975 and annexed one year later.

The calm scene at Bishop Belo's residence contrasted sharply with a mass held there last Sunday when 100 East Timorese began unfurling banners and denouncing

the Indonesian government when the service finished. Mr. Belo's call for restraint seemed to have an effect as a scores of youths attending showed their displeasure at

claping and jeering. "We are showing that we are not happy with the police who are always around Belo's house. But there will be nothing more than this (clapping)," a youth said.

It has been a tense week for many in Dili where rampaging youths brought the capital to a standstill, destroying more than a dozen shops and smashing cars and

## Abacha rejects request to free Abiola

LAGOS (AFP) — Nigerian head of state, General Sani Abacha, has rejected a request made to him by a visiting U.S. congressional delegation to free opposition leader Chief Moshood Abiola, the delegation leader

Harry Johnston, said here. "At the beginning of our talks with General Abacha late Friday in Abuja, when we requested him to set Abiola free, he (Abacha)

turned us down," Mr. Johnston said at a private dinner organised in honour of his delegation by Mr. Abiola's

Speaking earlier Saturday at a news conference here, a member of the delegation. William Jefferson, had expressed the hope that Mr. Abiola would have "a fair process" of trial and in accordance with the nation's judicial system.

Mr. Abiola, is currently detained in Abuja on charges of treason for proclaiming himself president and head of the armed forces.

Corroborating the report of Mr. Abiola's personal physician on the deteriorating state of health of the millionaire Muslim politician, the leader of the American delegation said "Abiola is not in good health."

## Pressure grows on U.N. for air strikes at Krajina Serbs

SARAJEVO (R) --- Pressure built on the U.N. to strike at the Serbs from the air Sunday to help Muslims under ground and air attack in the Bihac enclave of northwest Bosnia.

Hours after the U.N. Security Council decided to widen the scope for intervention by NATO warplanes, Muslim media reported that Bihac towns and their government defenders were under heavy assault by Serb forces and their allies among rebel Muslims.

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic said Serb tanks were rolling through villages towards the U.N. safe haven of Bihac town and

"The concrete action would be to take out these tanks — serious air strikes." The Canadian head of U.N. peacekeepers in the enclave said local people turned on his men in anger after two Serb air raids.

He appealed to commanders of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPRO-FOR) in Bosnia "to do their utmost to stop these outrageous violations of international law."

UNPROFOR, usually hesitant to use NATO air power, is considering whether to allow the alliance to attack and disable Udbina Air Base on Serb-held territory in neighbouring Croatia.

NATO monitors said the air raids, on the towns of Bihac and Cazin, were launched from the base although the claim was denied by Serbs quoted by the Yugoslav news agency (Tanjug). A Serb Orao ground attack

plane crashed into an apartment block in Cazin during a raid Saturday, killing the pilot and wounding at least nine residents, some seriously.

The Security Council responded to the raids Saturday by authorising NATO for the first time to attack Serb targets in Croatia.

Croatia backed the decision. Meteorologists said weather conditions for air strikes were 'fair. The U.N. made clear there would be no advance notice of its intentions, although all its units in former Yugoslavia were placed on a state of high

There will be no comment (beforehand) on these issues," spokesman Paul Ris-

ley said in Zagreb. Although the rules of engagement in the Bosnian conflict do not allow punitive air strikes, the political, diplomatic and military press-

ure on UNPROFOR was enormous. Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., said: "My government believes that this pattern of military activity justifies a

NATO. The American ambassador to NATO said of a possible request to launch an air strike: "If they (the U.N.) don't, then we (NATO)

military response from

The U.N.'s reluctance to use NATO is usually based on a fear of exposing U.N. troops on the ground to Serb retaliation and of being seen to take sides.

The air strike option has been held in reserve in Bihac although the Serbs have both flouted the U.N. no-fly zone over Bosnia and have attacked the U.N. safe haven of Bihac town.

Muslim media followed up the Security Council decision with emotional appeals for help and warnings that the Serbs were continuing to

make gains. Sareajevo Radio said villages along the Serb-held border between Croatia and

Bihac were falling to a joint force of Muslim rebels and Serbs. Its reporter in Bihac broadcast: "UNPROFOR has still not asked for help from the air by NATO though it has had a thousand reasons for it.

"Bihac is burning, Velika Kladisa is burning, the sky and the earth is burning... come from New York and implement your resolutions. Bitterly attacking the inactivity of U.N. peacekeepers, Mr. Silajdzic said: "If UNPROFOR and the U.N. cannot carry out their man-

date here, cannot protect the

safe zones, cannot see that

convoys pass through, we wonder why they are here." Most of the U.N peacekeepers in Bihac belong to a Bangladeshi battalion sent there hurriedly with no medical supplies and hardly. any weapons when French

U.N. spokesman Jan-Dirk Mirveldt admitted there was "major concern" for the Bangladeshis since the Serb air raids.

troops withdrew in the au-

## Vietnam, China put disputes to one side

HANOI (R) — Former enemies China and Vietnam agreed at the highest level Sunday to put their differences aside and focus on developing friendship, a Chinese spokesman said.

The agreement came in talks between delegations led by Communist Party chiefs Jiang Zemin of China and Do Muoi of Vietnam at the start of a three-day visit by Mr. Jiang, who is also China's head of state.

"Both sides will proceed from the overall interest of friendly relations ... as well as of peace and stability in this region," spokesman Chen Jian told reporters.

problems by adhering to patient consultations," he added. "The two sides believe they should enhance common

appropriate solutions to these

understanding and seek common ground while putting aside their differences so these problems will not affect the normal development of friendly relations. They did not even discuss

border disputes on land and in the South China Sea, such as their rival claims to the Spratly Islands," Mr. Jian said.

Mr. Jiang said the two countries, trying to accelerate economic development.

should try hard to promote cooperation. and exploit their complementarity, Mr. Jian

"Both sides should make major efforts to tap such potentials," he added. Mr. Jian said three agree-

ments would be signed before Mr. Jiang leaves Tuesday — on setting up a trade commission, regulating the quality of import and export goods, and on truck transport. The tone of the talks as

outlined by China confirmed that the world's two biggest Communist states, who fought a border war in 1979 and clashed in the Spratt. in 1988, were not in the mood to

squabble while they concentrated their energies on building market economies.

Despite periodic arguments over the Spratlys, oildrilling rights and other issues, relations have slowly. improved since relations were normalised in 1991.

They signed an accord last year to shun the use of force in settling disputes, but have announced no fresh agreements in talks on border

Mr. Jiang is the most senior Chinese leader to come to Vietnam since the normalisation, and the first Chinese Communist Party boss ever to do so.

## Ahern vows to get N. Ireland peace back on rails

LONDON (R) — Ireland's cess, launched last year with or so." Bertie Ahern pledged Sunday to get the Northern Ireland peace process back on the rails after a traumatic political week in the Irish Republic.

His determination to keep peace alive was echoed by Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, leader of the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) political wing.

Mr. Ahern, elected unopposed Saturday as leader of Fianna Fail, Ireland's largest political party, told BBC Television: "Peace on the island, saving lives is more important than any other political objective."

The 43-year-old finance minister now faces delicate backroom negotiations with the Labour Party, Fianna Fail's coalition partners who brought down Prime Minister Albert Reynolds over his handling of an extradition

Mr. Ahern, the youngest leader in his party's 70-year history, said: "Whatever we do, we must try to end the political instability, build on the peace process and try and get that back on the rails quickly.' He said it was crucial for

Mr. Reynolds to continue to play a part in the peace pro-

potential new Prime Minister an Anglo-Irish peace declaration and then built on with ceasefires declared by the IRA and their Protestant

> Mr. Ahern also promised to press for an early meeting with British Prime Minister John Major, Mr. Major and Mr. Reynolds were due to hold a summit next month.

Gerry Adams, a key player in the struggle to find peace after 25 years of guerrilla conflict and more than 3,100 deaths, said: "I think Republicans are very, very committed to this process."

Asked if he saw the IRA returning to the bomb and the bullet, Mr. Adams said: "I would like to think we have left that behind us."

He said he was opposed to punishment beatings by the IRA whose victims are shot in the kneecaps for such offences as drug running and joy riding. But he denied police claims that the beatings had increased since the Sept. 1 IRA ceasefire.

Mr. Ahern was quick to

dampen any expectations of an early resolution to Ireland's latest political crisis. Parliament reconvenes Tuesday to pick a new prime minister but Mr. Ahern said he expected the issue would not be resolved "for a week

polls showing that the vast majority of people did not want a general election just 22 months after the ill-fated coalition came to power.

"Certainly the vast majority would go for a Fianna Fail-Labour coalition again rather than any national government or any other combination, so we have to take that into account," Mr. Ahern said.

Meanwhile, some 50 hardliners are preparing to defy the Irish Republican Army's leadership and begin a bombing campaign in Britain and Northern Ireland, the Sunday Times said.

The newspaper, citing senior security officials, said the breakaway faction had given the IRA's leaders an impossible deadline of next March to bring "the total surrender" of the British government in Northern Ireland. Evidence of a split in IRA ranks, with hardliners chafing at what they see as slow progress since the IRA declared a ceasefire on Aug. 31, confirms growing fears that

ern Ireland is in jeopardy, it The Irish Times reported Saturday that Mr. Adams, president of the IRA's poli-

the peace process in North-

tical wing Sinn Fein, had sent He pointed to Irish opinion a private warning that the political crisis in Dublin could give IRA rebels an early opportunity to resume vio-

The Sunday Times said the

breakaway group, as yet un-

named, had formed a skeleton command structure and appointed key military commanders ready to direct a new campaign of violence. England would be a prime target for the breakaway.

group, according to intelligence sources cited by the It quoted Michael Cassidy, the City Of London's head of security policy, as saying the IRA was continuing to move

weapons and equipmentaround and that the capital's financial district would be a leading target. "During the ceasefifeperiod their operatives have been observed doing dummy runs on targets that theymight want to hit. They are:

without being detected," Mr. Cassidy told the paper. The paper said British Intelligence's "cautious". assessment of the continuing-IRA threat was one of the main reasons why Mr. Major. has been reluctant to rush-

into talks with Mr. Adams.

testing the system by getting

stolen vehicles into place

## Murayama's power base is seen crumbling

leader of Japan's ruling Socialists called Sunday for the party to disband and recreate itself as a "democratic" political force in a move that could split Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's

power base. Socialist Secretary-General Wataru Kubo said the party should hold an extraordinary convention in January to disband and form a new "Democratic Liberal Party." He refused to rule out mass defections if his proposal was not discussed.

"We must make a formal decision before the start of the regular parliamentary session," Mr. Kubo said in a television interview broadcast Sunday. The party's next regular session is due around Jan. 20.

Former Socialist Party Chairman Sadao Yamahana. who heads the biggest rightwing faction, the New Democratic League, has said the party has no option but to disband.

"The Socialist Party is now

making a big stride towards a (rebel) faction, the party the formation of a new party, won't be able to unite on a or break-up," Mr. Yamahafull scale," he told reporters. na, who headed political reform under former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's administration.

"It is realistic to form a new party sometime between the end of the extraordinary Diet (parliamentary) session in December and the start of the regular Diet session in January," he told a trade union seminar Saturday.

It was unclear if the party's left-wingers, who are the main backers of Mr. Murayama's coalition government, would join forces with their right-wing rivals in a new party. "If ghosts came out to

block the new party scheme, we would have to wipe them out," said Mr. Kubo, the party's second most senior leader after Chairman Murayama. Construction Minister

Koken Nosaka, a Socialist.

warned Sunday against

threats to walk out of the

party. "With the defection by

entire party to support the Murayama government," he added. Mr. Kubo said the new

"Now is the time for the

party's "vision" should be formulated by the time opposition parties launched their new, amalgamated Nine parties of the non-

Communist opposition are due on Dec. 10 to form a "grand" new party to take on Mr. Murayama's four-monthold coalition, which also includes the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the small Sakigake Party.

Some political analysts said the Socialists, deeply split between the right and the left, were likely to avoid a major break-up.

"As we have seen in the past, the Socialists are genius compromisers, although they chronically confront with one another," leading political commentator Minoru Morita

said in a television interview He said the Socialist Party

might simply change its name and policy platform. After Mr. Murayama took office in June, the Socialist Party overhauled its basic hard-left policies on the armed forces, the U.S.-Japan security pact and nuclear. power plants in a radical

attempt to bring the party into the post-cold war era. The latest move by Socialist rebels could pressure Mr. Murayama to reshuffle his cabinet and even call snap

elections, analysts said. "I believe there is a 50 per cent chance of general elections being called in January or February," said former Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, leader of the Japan Renewal Party, the biggestsingle opposition group in

Mr. Murayama, who has the sole right to dissolve the lower house and hold general elections at any time, does not have to do so until mid-

parliament,

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## Doors that should never close

SULTAN QABOOS' call on Saturday for fresh interpretations of Islamic laws to suit modernday life could not have come at a more opportune time. Stagnation has not only given way to fundamentalism, which in turn spawned fanaticism, it has also divided Muslims and the Islamic World. Several Muslim countries are unfortunately in the throes of bloody civil strife because of religious extremism and intolerance. Sultan Qaboos thus seized the opportunity of Oman's national day to sound the alarm about that "stagnation" which has resulted in the drift to backwardness and weakness.

The sultan, in issuing his call, must have had in mind the "Bab Al Ijtihad," meaning the door of interpretation, when he voiced his concern about the lack of evolutionary construction of Islamic Sharia. This available but unused opening has been viewed by many Muslim scholars as one of the greatest missed opportunities of our time.

The Omani leader was obviously correct when he reminded the faithful that new questions and issues have arisen since the times of the Prophet Mohammad which necessitated new answers and solutions. That is in essence why "Bab Al Ijtihad" has always been considered as one of the principal pillars of Islam that should have remained open and available for the orderly evolution of the religion. The built-in mechanism for keeping Islam the progressive religion it was meant to be has to be put to the test in the full confidence that it will work and produce positive results. Many Muslim theologians who have unstraken faith have, sadly, remained silent so far for fear that raising this issue could make them suspect in the eyes of the ultra-conservative elements among us.

As this subject is very delicate and complex, it needs to be approached with a maximum degree of coverage, honesty and faith. It goes without saying that not every Muslim enjoys the necessary credentials to speak out on this dimension of Islam. The right course to adopt in this vein is to call for an all Islamic conference for this purpose to be attended by knowledgeable and imminent people. The Islamic World can no longer afford to ignore this pressing subject. As Sultan Qaboos has aptly observed, "it is really sad that the stagnation (in Islam) has resulted in a weakness of the Muslim Nation which in recent years has brought about fanaticism based on a lack of knowledge among the Muslim youth about the correct facts of their religion."

"Obstinacy in religious understandings," Sultan Qaboos warned, "leads to backwardness in Muslims, the prevalence of violence and intolerance."

These words are a timely reminder that the interpretation of Islamic laws and principles needs to be put on course. The drift can only lead to ignorance and consequently division and fanaticism.

## **ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES**

IT WAS natural for the sad events in Gaza to cause pain to the Arabs and Muslims everywhere in the world and not to the Palestinian people alone, said Al Dustour daily Sunday. Jordan's statement expressing regret over the incidents and calling on the Palestinians to exercise self-restraint and elaintain unity of ranks showed the Jordanian people's sadness over the the death and injury of the innocent people and reflected the feelings of all Arabs and Muslims who are keen on protecting Arab lives and interests and who are concerned over the future of the Palestinian people, said the daily. There is need for the Palestinian brothers to resort to reason and abstain from making any moves that could be interpreted as hostile to other Palestinians holding different views, cautioned the daily. It said that the Palestinians face hardships and live under very difficult circumstances due to the Israeli occupation, poverty and unemployment, but resorting to violence to settle disputes or to express feelings can by no means solve these problems but rather complicate them further, added the daily. Expressing sympathy over the dead and wounded in the tragic Friday events, the paper expressed hope that there would be no more bloodshed and that the Palestihians would pool their resources and their potentials to achieve the common goals.

FAHD AL Fanek said that having signed a peace treaty with Israel. Jordan is supposed to reduce military expenditure and direct funds towards economic and social development. But the columnist, who writes in Ai Ra'i daily, said that the government sent no signal yet that it would do so in the 1995 fiscal year which is currently being prepared by the concerned departments. The writer said that since most of the expenditure goes for services, salaries, fuel and other necessities, and since it is unlikely that the government will reduce the number of Armed Forces personnel for the time being, at least in view of the rising rate of unemployment in the Kingdom, the level of expenditure is bound to remain the same if not increase. Expressing the view that Jordan will continue to need a ready army regardless of the peace treaty with Israel, the writer noted that a big portion of the budget for the Armed Forces is allocated for health services and education for children of the Armed Forces personnel in addition to such services as building bridges and offering assistance to the public. The writer said the country remains in need of the Armed Forces in times of war and peace because their services are essential for the nation.

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**HUMAN RIGHTS FILE** 

By Dr. Waleed M. Sa'di

## Human rights can only benefit from peace in the region

SOME PEOPLE who oppose the peace treaty that was ratified last week base their rejection of the treaty on their fears for the future of Jordan and the Arab World that could be threatened by the Israeli designs. It is a legitimate and reasonable concern, but not absolutely valid. Israel may at the end of the line, have more to fear from peace in the region than the Arab side. As a matter of fact I have always subscribed to the proposition that Israel could weaken in the long term after it drops its siege, mentality and become part of the Middle East. Of course there will always be some ground for the premise that the Israelis would be able to penetrate the Arab market and extend its sophisticated hegemony over it.

There is always the possibility that such interventions could make some Arab businesses subservient to Israeli conglomerates and the Arab markets fertile soil for Israeli entrepreneurs. The probability that the reverse could happen, however, must not be belittled. Jordanian, Syrian or Lebanese business communities are no novice when it comes to making business and their abilities to penetrate the Israeli market cannot therefore be dismissed out of hand. At worst, I see a two-way traffic among equal partners. At best I see the weight of Arab quantitative advantage coupled with the huge Arab capital as outweighing the cummulative Israeli potential.

Of course the Israeli political and security institutions are superior to anything that exists in the Arab World and on that basis it, may in theory, succeed to penetrate Arab security aparata and undermine Arab control over the future. On the other hand, increased social, economic and political contacts with the Israeli side stand to erode the long-term Israeli advantages in these areas, especially when time can be expected to make the Israelis more Middle Eastern in their perspectives and less Western.

The frequency of the contacts between the two peoples can only bridge the gaps between them. This is the lesson of history everywhere in the world. The Israelis are after all human beings just like us, ready to integrate and become integrated. Give or take twenty five years, the distinction between them and us can be projected to decrease to the minimum. As long as the Arab side keeps its eyes wide open and learns to play the game properly and intelligently, Israel, and not the Arab countries, runs the risk of weakening under the impact of peace in the region. Why I-write this column under the heading of human rights is simply explained by the fact that peace related issues are part and parcel of human rights.

The immediate and long-term impact of peace on the realisation of human rights in all their dimensions is too clear to require a comment. I see greater opportunities for the Arab peoples to achieve their multi-faceted human rights under conditions of peace than under conditions of wars and tensions. That is why there is a distinct stake for all of us who are concerned about the development of human rights among our midst.

There are no ironclad assurances that peace in the area would automatically advance the cause of human rights in our region of the world. Yet, in relative terms, peaceful conditions have always contributed to the rise of human rights as a national cause. Israel's human rights record leaves much to be desired when it comes to minority rights and discrimination between a Jew and a non-Jew. On other levels, Israel has developed a rather sophisticated degree of human rights for its own people from which we can learn a

Peace with the Arabs may contribute to ending the preferential treatment given to Israeli Jews in general and occidental Jews in particular. Thus, peace with Israel bodes well for human rights everywhere one looks.

## Prevent a return to all-out war in ex-Yugoslavia

al is far from assured.

time is working against them

as the Croats build up their

forces, as their own fuel shor-

Serbia distances itself from

the Serbs outside. But they

are in no mood for comprom-

shaky, and if the UN force

has to pull out, or even if it

stays, the next step could be

velopments where change

needs to be managed con-

cerns Bosnia. After two and a

half years of military success,

the Bosnian Serbs recently

suffered their first major tac-

tical reverse. Faced with

sanctions imposed last Au-

gust by their supposed

brethren in Serbia, they are

militarily overextended and

face a Bosnian government

army that is better organised.

collaborates with Bosnian

Croat forces, has internal

lines of communication and

has developed a strategy for

using the comparative advan-

tage that its greater infantry

are now finding if difficult to

find the fuel they need to

move around their tanks and

artillery pieces. the Bosnian

government forces are receiv-

ing arms through a leaky

embargo and have begun to

capture weapons from the

In theory, the pressure on

the Bosnian Serb forces

should assist efforts at a Bos-

nian settlement. After all, the

policy of the Contact Group

(United States, Russia, Bri-

tain, France and Germany) is

to pressure the Bosnian Serb

leadership into accepting a

proposed partition of

Bosnian-Herzegovina, which

includes some territorial con-

cessions by the Serbs.

However, increased pressure

on the Bosnian Serbs could

the wall, and sensing that

time is on the side of their

enemies, the Bosnian Serbs

might conclude that their best

is to force the departure of

the UN force and "execute"

some or all of their

metaphorical hostages —

Bihac, Sarajevo and the three

eastern enclaves of Gorazde.

Zepa and Srebrenica — thus

freeing up the artillery and

troops needed to besiege

them and using these re-

Even if the Bosnian Serbs

were just to retreat, if they

could not reverse their losses.

Slobodan Milosevic and

others in Serbia might not be

able to stand by and watch

fellow Serbs suffer. The

Yugoslav army, perhaps

acting on its own, might feel

pressure to intervene. The

Croatian Serbs have already

sources elsewhere.

done so.

With their backs against

lead to a wider disaster.

Bosnian Serb forces.

While the Bosnian Serbs

"The second set of de-

The status quo is thus

ise despite their situation.

By Adam Roberts, John Chipman, Philip H. Gordon, Mats Berdal

LONDON — Battlefield advances by Bosnian government forces in the former Yugoslavia and shifts in U.S. policy on the arms embargo remind us that wars may appear static but are not. In this new environment, the international community needs to rethink its policies.

Too much passivity (patience in letting the parties fight or come to terms by themselves) or too much activity (impatience in seeking to force changes it cannot control) could lead to renewed all-out war.

There are three sets of developments on which the international community has to make the right decisions if the conflict and the prospects for peace are not to take a dramatic turn for the worse. back to the horrors of 1991-

The least talked about set of developments, but perhaps the most potentially explosive, is those in Croatia. The conflict between the government of Croatia and the three Serb-held areas within Croatia remains serious.

Since the arrival of a United Nations Protection Force in the spring of 1992, these three regions (comprising the so-called Serb Republic of Krajina) have been relatively quiet, and the world's attention has focused on the savagery of Bosnia. But the Croatian conflict has only been frozen, not resolved, and the changing balance of power in the region could lead to attempts to settle it by force.

The government of Croatia is increasingly fed up with the role it perceives the U.N. force to be playing on its territory. As many Croats see it, the force is not fulfilling its mandate to demilitarise the three Serb-held U.N. Protected Areas, control borders and permit the return of displaced Croats to their homes, but is rather protecting the Serbs who drove those persons from their homes and depriving Croatia of its vital communication links in the

east and the south. The Croats do not want the creation of a state within a state, and are impatient with the UN force's lack of prog-

The Krajina Serbs who fear for their safety in a Croatian state give no hint that they would accept any autonomy plan that did not leave them virtually in charge of their regions. They point to provocative symbols like the new Croatian currency, the kuna, which was previously used by the fascist Croatian state during World War II.

The Zagreb government's line is that it will not cede an inch of territory, while the Krajina Serbs assert that they would rather die heroically than accept Croatian rule. Negotiations about the future of these areas proceed under various auspices, but they do not look promising.

During the last two years

In any case, the new militthe Croatian government has equipped and trained its ary dynamism is putting inarmed forces. It now possess ternal pressure on the contact group, with some members a more professional military condemning the Bosnian govcapability that it may soon be ernment actions and others tempted to use. In January the Croatian Parliament will cheering its successes. The third way in which the vote on an extension of the

UN force's mandate; approvcurrent Yugoslav conflict might escalate derives not from the inside but from ac-The Krajina Serbs feel that tions currently being considered outside. Last Friday the U.S. govtages become acute and as

ernment announced that it would no longer take part in the military enforcement of the embargo so far as Bosnia is concerned. America may attempt to go further and supply arms on a unilateral basis, or try to get the Security Council to lift the embargo. The policy announced last Friday is straining the coherence of the contact group and the unity of NATO. Going further would pose even more acute problems, including in Bosnia it-

The Bosnian government. of course, is already getting new arms (the Croats let "grey market" arms get through), and the heavier weapons that could come in where the embargo lifted would only make a military differnce over time.

Lifting the formal arms embargo would have three immediate practical effects, all undesirable. First, it would announce to all concerned that the United Nations is no longer impartial but a party to the conflict.

Second, the UN force would almost certainly leave Bosnia and probably Crotia immediately, not only ending the relief programme but also destroying the existing foundation of a future force (envisaged as being under a NATO label) to implement a settle-

Third, lifting the embargo would reinforce the sense of the Bosnian Serbs that time is against them and that they should take extreme measures now.

American proponents of lifting the embargo and critics of UN "appeasement" claim that they are doing the moral thing by allowing victims to defend themselves. But set against the reality of arms getting into Bosnia anyway, their proposal is more theoretical than practical. They need to reflect on the consequences of their proposal. not only for allied unity but also for the hundreds of thousands of inhabitants of Sarajevo and the enclaves who would be at risk of being killed, starved or captured by a cornered Bosnian Serb army and leadership.

The new dynamism of the situation in former Yugoslavia, and the shifts in U.S policy, have created a set of problems that need to be handled carefully. The contact group and the U.N. Protection Force must take certain steps, and avoid taking others, in an effort to prevent a further humanitarian disaster possibly even worse than that of the earlier phase of the conflict.

First, the temptation to lift the arms embargo must be resisted in the Security Council. The British and French should not hide behind a probable Russian veto and should make clear their principled opposition to any such resolution. Forcing the Russians to play "bad cop" at the United Nations would wrongly portray the arms embargo debate as an East-West issue and would unnecessarily exacerbate Russian resentment

of the West. Were the U.S government to allow its own citizens unilaterally to supply arms to the Bosnian government, it would risk the absurdity of a direct clash with a NATO still committed to enforcing the arms embargo against all traders.

Second, the international community needs urgently to concentrate on the situation in Croatia. Members of the contact group, particularly Bonn and Washington, should impress on Zagreb that any early attempt to regain by force the three Serb-held UN Protected Areas UNPA in Croatia would lead to international isolation.

It could also lead to a new Serbian Croatian war if the Yugoslav army were militarily to support the Krajina Serbs. To avert any such outcome, the UN force should intensify its efforts to deliver on its mandate in the UN-Although demilitariation is

impossible in the absence of consent, the United Nations could still engage in more vigorous policing of the UNPA borders and redouble its efforts for the return of displaced people. If the UN force is obliged to leave Croatia, which provides its headquarters, its continuance in Bosnia becomes virtually impossible.

Third, in farming a political solution for Bosnia, the contact group needs openly to confront the viability of a state that was prematurely born. Bosnian government forces have achieved important military successes recently, but no one should doubt the military and political impossibility of putting the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina back together again.

Becaue of the disputes within Serbdom, the solution that the Bosnian Serbs previously called for (attachement to Serbia) may no longer be their first choice. Yet leaving space for a possible confederation between Bosnian Serbs and Serbia may be the best available avenue to peace.

Mr. Roberts is Montague Burton professor of international relations at Balliol College, Oxford, Mr. Chipman is Director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London, Mr. Gordon is a senior fellow at the institute, and Mr. Berdal a research fellow. They contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

## Prohibiting political activity of the Orient House contravenes U.N. resolutions

By Pascal B. Karmy

Article 1 of the Oslo accord of Sept. 13, 1993, between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel provides, inter alia that after the five-year interim period the permanent settlement be based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and that "it is understood that the interim arrangements are an integral part of the whole peace process and that the negotiations on the permanent status will lead to the implementation of Security Council resolu-

tions 242 and 338." It is common knowledge that the Orient House is situated in East Jerusalem which was occupied by Israel in 1967 and annexed on June 28, 1967. On July 30, 1980, in defiance of world opinion, Israel enacted a law which proclaimed Jerusalem its eternal capital. On Aug. 20, 1980, the Security Council by its decision No. 478 condemned in the strongest terms Israel's action (by 14 votes to 0 with the U.S. abstaining) and declared the Israel law as null and void and called upon those states that had established diplomatic missions in Jerusalem to withdraw them from the city.

Recently, and again in defiance of international law and the will of the international community, the Israeli; Knesset has passed a law prohibiting any Palestinian political activity in East Jerusalem, particularly in the Orient House, the de facto seat of the PLO as represented by Faisal Al Husseini who is also a member of the Palestine National Authority. The Likud Party opposed the law in the Knesset on the ground that it is superfluous inasmuch as, the Likud claimed, the law of 1980 already considers East Jeruslam as integral part of Israel and consequently the Israeli government could take any step or measure necessary to curb or but an end to Palestinians activity in the part of the city.

However, notwithstanding the Israeli annexation of-East Jerusalem to Israel, it is in fact, and according to customary and conventional international law, an integral part of the occupied territory of the West Bank. Moreover, this legal status is recognised by all states of the world as evidenced by the fact that, with two or three exceptions, the embassies of those states are not stationed in Jerusalem but in Tel-Aviv. Even Israel's High Court of Justice has unwittingly admitted that the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, was an occupied territory, although it was hesitant to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to this territory. And it goes without saying that when the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will establish diplomatic and consular relations with Israel as required by Article 5 of the peace treaty between them the latter and the Kingdom, it will station the embassy and consular corps not in Jerusalem but in Tel-Aviv. The legal status of East

Jerusalem being as described above, Mr. Faisal Al Husseini is fully entitled to carry on any political activity, without disturbing public order, including welcoming representatives of foreign states or other important world personalities. as he did when he received Tansa Ciller, the prime minister of Turkey, a few weeks ago. Moreover, the Orient House in Jerusalem was the centre of activity which guided the Palestipian representatives during the negotiations with Israel which started in 1991, with out any objection on the part of Israel and at a time when the radical Likud Party and other die-hard reactionary parties were in power.

Because East Jerusalem is in law a part of the Palestinian occupied territory and because Israel had. before the Oslo accord. accepted Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the city is imperatively subject to the principle of exchange of territory for peace. It must in consequence be returned to the Palestinian

people, with whom sovereignty ultimately resides, as had been rightly stated by the former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. This legal status is moreover enhanced by the fact that Article 1 of the Oslo accord expressly refers to the two resolutions which laid down the principle of the exchange of territory for MAT

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It is true that the question of Jerusalem, among other issues, is to be negotiated at a later stage during the permanent status negotiations which will take place according to Article (2)-(3) of the Oslo accord not later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period, that is to say by about the end of 1996. But obviously this postponement of the negotiation on Jerusalem does not in any way derogate from its recognised legal status. On the contrary, Israel has admitted by the accord that Jerusalem is negotiable, and not "non-negotiable" as often declared by Israel in the past, although it is still claiming that Jerusalem is its eternal capital.

It should be further observed that the permanent status negotiations on Jerusalem, provided for in the Osio accord, should not be prejudiced or preempted by Israeli actions or measures such as I believe, the passing of a law restricting or prohibiting the political activity of the Orient House or, for that matter, any Palestinian political activity in East Jerusalem. In addition, any such law or measure contravenes the pertinent United Nations Security resolutions and the various relevant U.N. General Assembly resolutions on Jerusalem.

permanent status negotiations on Jerusalem, provided for in the Oslo accord, should not be prejudiced or preempted by Israeli actions or measures such as... the passing of a law restricting or prohibiting the political activity of the Orient House or. for that matter, any Palestinian political activity in East Jerusalem.

Mr. Faisal Al Husseini has rightly declared that Israel must realise that the Palestinians have one of two options to adopt: Either pursuing political activity, including negotiations with the view of attaining their national rights, which the PLO and subsidiarily the Orient House pursue, or to go the way of Hamas. I think Prime Minister Rabin would be well advised not to hinder the peaceful political activity of the Orient House. Mr. Rabin, his party the Likud, and other Israeli parties should rid themselves of the arrogant mentality of the occupier if they really wish to have peace and security with the Palestinian people and, for that matter, with all their Arab neighbours. The Israelis, and the Jews in general of all people in the world, should be the first people to feel and sympathise with the Palestinians, who are working hard only to free themselves of the shakles of occupation and to live in peace in their independant and sovereign territory in honour and dignity. The Israelis should therefore apply the timehonoured saying "Live and let live."

## Features

## biting politic: ty of the Orie e contravene resolutions

By Pawai B Katter

Perfer de la Principal A PROPERTY IN iffet atren Mill and सांक स्थाप्त विकास सम्बद्धाः विकास सम्बद्धाः भी देशकारिय saffi fara , fi that the नाई श्रीमध्यक ff ist the tale Refer will aim the a woli brasi ntainm ... हो दश्यापेस 14 "

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黄素 美国 2015 300 1 27. 1" graphy sent .... THE SEC. Mozambican vote passes smoothly

By Judith Matloff Reuter

> MAPUTO — Multi-party elections have brought Mozambique back from the depths of civil war but huge problems loom for a desperately poor country with no experience in democracy.

The former rebel movement Renamo's acceptance of its defeat by President Josquim Chissano and his ruling Frelimo Party in last month's general elections has consolidated 1992 peace

It also aligned Mozambiaue with the growing southem African fraternity who have made peaceful transitions to pluralism — South Africa, Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

But with the economy devastated by a long drought and nearly 20 years, of war and failed socialist experiments, Mozambique must compete with richer, more strategic neighbours for the foreign aid on which it almost entirely depends.

Doubts also loom over how Frelimo (Mozambique Liberation Front), which has ruled since independence from Portugal in 1975, will deal with unprecedented political opposition and deepening regional and ethnic divisions.

"War is unlikely now that (Renamo leader Afonso) Dhlakama has accepted the :- results," said one Western diplomat

The elections were just



Fears have abated that Renamo (Mozambican National Resistance) will resume its insurrection in the way that UNITA rebels did in another former Portuguese colony,

Military conflict is unlikely when thousands of U.N. peacekeepers leave Mozambique. But diplomats foresee an accompanying shrinkage of foreign economic aid.

They expect social unrest over a ruined economy which exports mainly cashew nuts and is strained by the homecoming of millions of refugees and a return to civilian life for 60,000 unskilled and often armed former soldiers.

Food self-sufficiency is a distant dream. Infrastructure take years to repair. Foreign investors have largely held off from Mozambique's tourism, agricultural and reconstruction potential until after the poll and many are still debating the risks.

On the political front, it is unclear what the role of the new 250-seat parliament will be or how often it will meet. Frelimo has 129 seats — a slim majority if, as most expect, Renamo and small UD (Democratic Union) present a unified front with their respective 112 and nine seats.

Mr. Chissano, who won 53 per cent of the votes over Mr. Dhlakama's 33 per cent, has resisted international pressure to form a coalition government akin to South Africa's post-apartheid adminis-



Jaquim Chissano

tration. The notion is unpalatable to party hardliners. In Saturday's victory speech, he said the opposition was best represented in parliament and society. But he said he would open dialogue with other parties to form a "competent and efficient" government.

Diplomats say this could mean including opposition figures in the cabinet due to be formed\_by mid-Decmeber, though probably not Dhlakama himself.

Dhlakama on Saturday. appeared to gracefully accept his role as chief opposition leader. But he would undoubtedly be less sanguine if

Mr. Chissano failed to appoint Renamo governors to at least some of the central and northern provinces where the party did well -Tete, Nampula, Zambezia, Sofala and Manica. A strong regional divide

between the two parties' traditional strongholds - Frelimo swept the south, including the capital Maputo - has raised concerns about ethnic splits deepening as they have in other African nations.

"A big problem we now



Frelimo supporters crowding a truck in Maputo on their way to a pre-election rally in Boane, 50 kilometres southwest of the capital (AFP photo)

## Colombia's drug mafia still rules supreme

By Paul Rutler

Agence France Presse BOGOTA — The death of

Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar a year ago has not put a dent in drug trafficking and its accompanying trail of murders, kidnappings and corruption, according to government statistics.

Colombian law-enforcement agencies are now embroiled in a more ruthless war against drug cartels, most notably against the notorious Cali cocaine dealers who rose to prominence after the demise of the Medellin clan led by Escobar.

President Ernesto Samper has told his main allies in the war on drugs, the United States, that he intends to fight to the bitter end. But the former head of the

U.S. anti-drug brigade in Colombia Joseph Toft has raised doubts over the government's commitment and recently dubbed the country a "narco-democracy", sparking cries of outrage.

U.S. officials claim that the Cali cartel controls 80 per cent of drugs exports to the United States and has wide-

ned its trade in heroine and cocaine well beyond the levels known under the Medellin clan.

The Cali cartel is believed to comprise some 100 semiindependent groups that have been successful in recruiting police and local authorities throughout the country on their payroll.

While Bolivia and Peru are still the region's major drug suppliers, local production has been on the rise with 40,000 hectares of coca plantations, 5,000 hectares of marijuana and 20,000 of poppy flowers, used to produce beroine, currently growing in the country.

Gabriel de Vega, director of the national drug bureau, says the downfall of the Medellin cartel, in addition to strengthening the Cali clan, has led to a sharp increase in small-time drug dealers.

Some 50 mayors elected last month are said to be on the payroll of guerrilla groups and drug dealers, according to a security forces report that was leaked to the media last week.

> The mayor, outraged by what they said were unfound-

ed accusations, said the report was "equal to a death sentence," recalling that 23 of their predecessors had

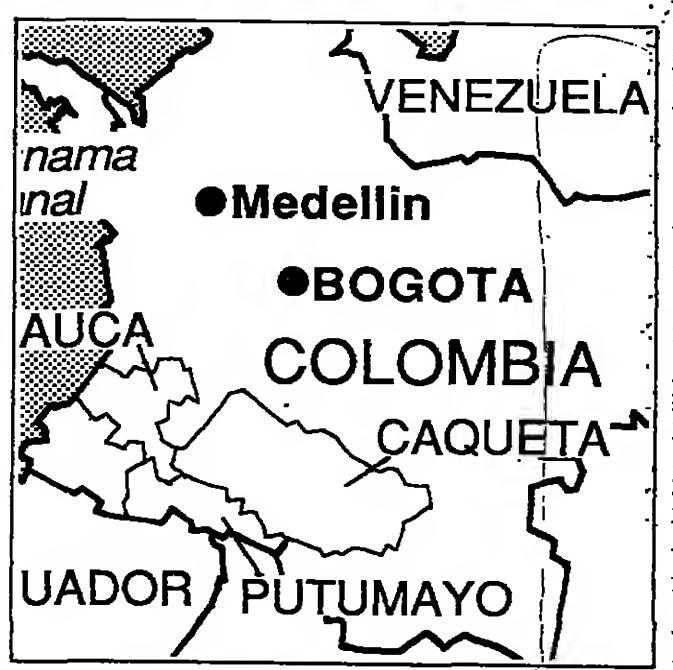
been assassinated. They demanded police protection. Another flourishing crime in Colombia is kidnapping for

ransom, with a whopping

5,000 cases reported in the first six months of the year one every 53 minutes. According to Interior Ministry officials, most of the abductions take place in the Cali region and half have

been tentatively attributed to

guerrilla groups.



## Romania tries to get rid of 'baby farm' image

By Roxana Dascalu Reuter

BUCHAREST — "Don't call me by my name, call me by any other name," says the young woman breastfeeding the illegitimate child she has handed over to a Bucharest orphanage.

Elena — not her real name — is typical of thousands of Romanian teenage mothers who feel compelled to give their children up for adoption or just "park" them temporarily in a network of state "cradles" set up in the communist

A university student, she does not want her parents to know she has a child. At the same time she does not want to break contact with the child. She returns to the orphanage every few hours to feed the baby boy and stays over night. "When I become a

lawyer I'll be able to raise the child myself," she said. Other young mothers have a different fate, a ready source of infants for those supplying babies to

elements for the process.

Mr. Blair presented a

"simplified" example of

possible privatisation in Jor-

dan. He said the govern-

ment's equity share in the

Arab Potash Company was

around 56 per cent worth

about JD 80 million at pre-

sent market prices. This

amount represented 43 years

of dividends from the com-

The question here, Mr.

Blair said, is how the govern-

ment wants to take a decision

on the issue — whether to sit

tight, happy with the di-

vidends that would come into

the treasury, or free the

capital to invest somewhere

else and open the economy to

A measure of government

control could be assured in

the company by what is

known in financial circles as a

"golden share" — a token

holding with an undisputed

right to veto any move that

the government finds as

going against national in-

that qualifies Jordan to hope

for international investments

if the Kingdom goes through

the right moves at the right

time, according to the

analysts, are expected be-

nefits from peace, a low cost

base that attracts direct in-

vestment, pure investment

considerations, a young work

force and a well-regulated

Among the positive factors

market forces.

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pany at present rate.

Investment needs liberalisation

childless foreigners like British couple Adrian and Bernadette Mooney, sentenced to jail last month for trying to smuggle a baby, Monica, out of Romania.

The Mooneys had their sentence suspended on Wednesday and hope to leave on Thursday. Monica, however, remains a resident of the same "cradle" where "Elena" was feeding her child among some 380 abandoned or orphaned babies.

the 1989 collapse of communism exposed thousands of abandoned children. Aid groups say 80,000 children remain in orphan-

A market for babies

emerged in Romania after

Foreigners legally. adopted 7,000 children by 1991, when Romania brought in a tough law to stem a post-communist baby trafficking boom laws under which the Mooneys were convicted.

Aid groups say another 10,000 may have gone illegally -- some to inappropriate, even dangerous, homes.

Since 1989 many childless couples, frustrated by Western adoption laws, rushed to the Balkan state to take advantage of what aid agencies see as a cynical trade for Westerners looking for cute, white, European babies who look at home in the West.

"East Europe is the closest supply source for Western demand for child adoptions," said Doina Maria Stoiculescu, director of the St. Catherine's Orphanage where baby Monica now lives.

Romanian police last week uncovered a child trafficking ring based in the Black Sea port of Constanta, which they said had already managed to "export" 12 children. Romanian newspapers said the asking price for the children was \$16,000 a head.

The Romanian Adoption Committee, set up under the 1991 law to stop trafficking, wants to close the last remaining loophole which allows quick courtapproved adoptions.

The committee, which fears many children are

effectively being smuggled out this way, has agreements with 23 countries, giving Romania some oversight of children adopted abroad. In 1994 it has conducted eight adoptions for Britain. One hundred children have gone to the United States so far this year.

The committee approved a total of 500 adoptions last year but almost 900 babies left in legal "private" adop-Ms. Stoiculescu warns

that private adoptions pose problems for both children and adoptive parents: "A risk is that the child is brutally torn from its environment. It will have problems in adjusting to a new environment, even if the conditions - are better, which may represent a trauma for the child."

Britain has reported cases of Romanian children being taken into care there after being rejected by the adoptive parents. "To leave an institution

only to end up in another one is no benefit for a child," Ms. Stoiculescu' said.

## Majali says ties improving

(Continued from page 1)

Ill explication of diplomatic relations Nov. ?7 and will open embassies

m Dec. 10. He added that Jordan's ening of the economic boycott if Israel after the signing of he peace treaty was a natural . moduct and underlined that his treaty should be an eximple for others to follow. The prime minister also eiterated that Jordan will se the influence of the treaty bring the peace process etween Syria and Israel to

access in order to have com-

rehensive peace in the re-

In reply to a question on rotecting peace with Israel, h. Majali said Jordan's faith democracy and political Juralism was strong and build not allow any nonadanian party to sabotage the peace process. The Kingom will not be a passage ay or headquarters for lose intending to do so, he

In his meeting with Dr. Bjali, Sheikh Khalifa disused inter-Arab relations id stressed the need for huine and effective Arab alidarity capable of respondg up to the requirements of

Mt-peace cra. Sheikh Khalifa and Dr. also discussed means further enhancing bilateral lations in all fields. The audience was attended by Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan and his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Hamad Ben Jasem Ben Jabr Al Thani and Minister of Electricity and Watar Ahmad Subace in addition to the Jordanian and Qatari ambas-

sadors. Dr. Majali held a separate meeting with the Qatari crown prince and discussed with him scopes of cooperation in the various fields.

Dr. Majali and Sheikh Hamad reviewed the efforts being made to reunite the Arab fold, and the latest developments of the Middle East peace process, in addition to issues of common

Jordan and Qatar on Sunday agreed on a three-year (1994-96) executive programme of educational, scientific and cultural cooperation. The programme will be signed later this week by Education Minister Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh who arrived in Doha early Sunday. In Amman, Information

Minister Jawad Anani said "through bilateral cooperation (with Qatar) Jordan is keen on promoting relations with all Arab countries, notably the six-member" Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

## PNA funds (Continued from page 1)

left last May.

"We have no intention of intervening in internal affairs of the Palestinians," said Mr. Peres. "Any intervention on our part will create the (wrong) impression that it is a conflict for or against Israel." In addition to the proposed

economic aid, many of the 17 ministers supported speeding up negotiations to expand Palestinian autonomy, said Environment Minister Yossi "There are ministers,

perhaps a majority, who think we should speed up negotiations to make it clear to all the Palestinians ... that we seriously intend to implement the agreements with the Palestinian authority," "Any hesitation here will

only make it more difficult for the Palestinian authority, and this is the last thing we want to do," he added. Israeli anlaysts worried that violence in Gaza would spiral uncontrollably. An editorial in Yedioth Ahro-

noth asked if Israel was "betting on the wrong horse," as Mr. Arafat's control over self-rule areas seemed to be deteriorating. Mr. Sarid and others insisted there was no indication that Mr. Arafat was losing control, citing surveys in-

## While "indirect invest-

ments" — capital going to the stock market — totalled only \$150 million, direct investments (acquisition of assets and capital for industries) amounted to \$600 million in 1993 and expectation for 1994 is \$1,000 million as a result of the liberalisation move by

(Continued from page 1)

King Hassan, Mr. Blair said. The analyst also noted that King Hassan followed up his move with determination and ensured that people who could not live up to the requirements of the change were immediately replaced with people who could do the

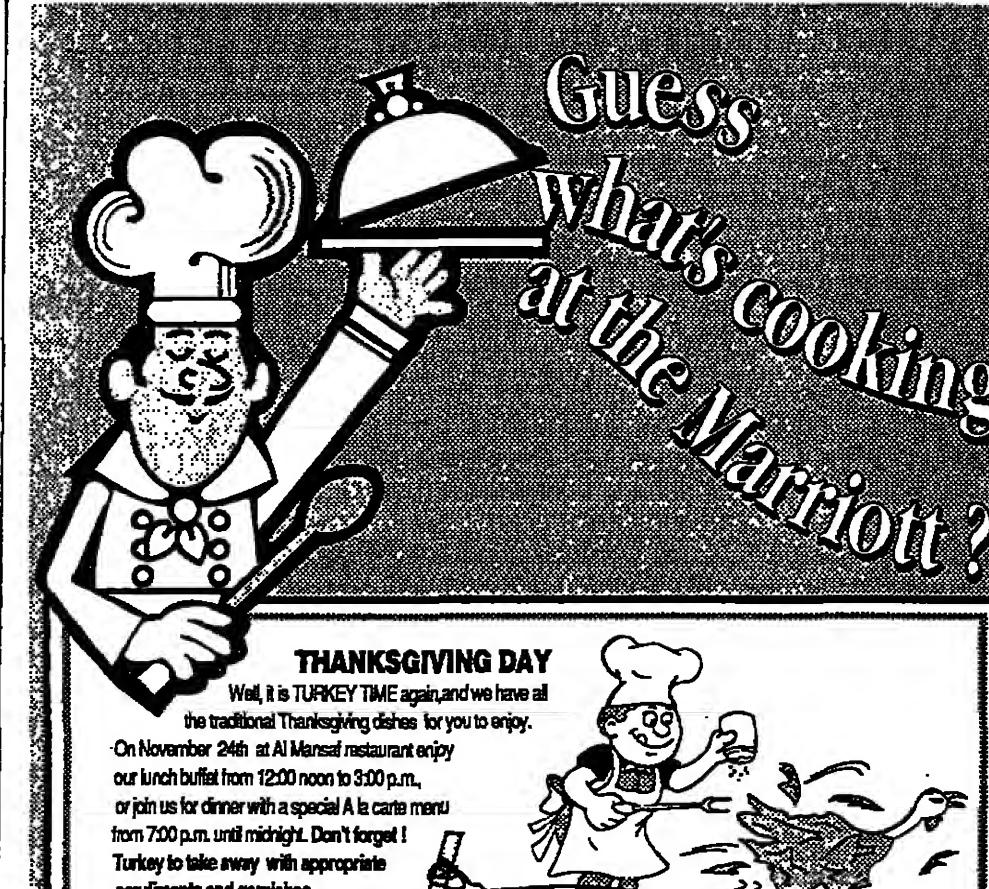
Mr. Blair implicitly suggested that the Jordanian leadership also adopt a similar approach, which he described as inevitable if the Kingdom was to realise it economic objectives.

At the same time, he also underlined the need for quick moves since Asian and African countries are also moving fast to adjust their economies in the race for international capital that is becoming increasingly available around the globe.

Privatisation of public entities is one way of inviting foreign capital under predetermined and controlled condinons as the situation warrants. But the political will and the right economic approach are two inevitable

Embassy in Washington. Any large military aid package promises to face challenges in Congress, said Anthony Cordesman, a professor of national security at Georgetown University in Washington. Plans to provide Jordan with excess F-16 fighters would be easiest to win support because of the country's clear need for a new fighter.

Still, nobody should expect that Jordan will receive anything near the \$1.3 billion of annual aid received by Egypt. "Congress may be in a mood to fund a peace (settlement) but it will be primarily for economic development," he



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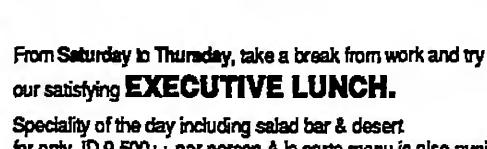


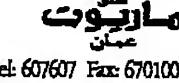
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## J.S. may give military aid

(Continued from page 1)

ade package would include luctural enhancements to orde about 4,000 hours ditional flying life to the 16, engine upgrades and a odern avionics suite, U.S. ir Force and industry mees said.

Jordan has always wanted join the F-16 club. But Fre trying to tell them that en if they get the carcasses free, it's going to cost a made to establish the necesly logistics network and to Main them. Then, of erse, you have to perform

the necessary structural, engine and avionics upgrades," a Pentagon official said.

As a less expensive alternative, the upgrade of a portion of the country's 62 aging F-5 fighters by improving the engines, the avionics and the weapon systems is also under examination. Upgrades for the F-5 fighters would cost only about \$4 million per

plane. Jordan's request for more than 200 M1A2 tanks is also under examination, but the sheer cost of equipping the

country with that many tanks would be prohibitive. amounting to about \$2 billion, sources said. Jordan's tank force is aging and consists of a large number of disparate types of tanks.

There is also discussion of

dicating two out of three

Palestinians support the

peace talks with Israel.

doing a \$200 million upgrade of some of Jordan's aging Hawk missiles to provide mobility and modernize them. Jordan has 14 batteries of Hawk missiles but as a condition of their initial sale. the missiles were not allowed to be mobile because of past concerns about their possible use against Israeli aircraft. An upgrade to a more modern version is also needed to

ensure that the missiles can

continue to get the spare parts they need. In addition, U.S. officials are examining Jordan's needs in trucks, communications equipment, spare parts and

Jordanian military requirments. U.S. sources said another team of technical advisers plans to meet with Jordanian officials later this month in Washington. A final military aid package for Jordan still will take

other support equipment. A U.S.-Jordanian joint military commission met in Amman Oct. 11-12 to review

at least a month more to put together, said Pentagon sources. No comment was available from the Jordanian

## Arab Gulf states unlikely to drop dollar link Official: U.S. turns

ABU DHABI (AFP) — : Arab Gulf states have become almost certain they should keep their currencies linked to the dollar despite losses they have suffered from sharp fluctuations in the U.S. currency, bankers said Sunday.

A partial detachment from the dollar has been under consideration by the Gulf 'Cooperation Council (GCC) states for nearly a decade to find a joint peg for their currencies as part of plans to -create a common Gulf mar-

But the six members. which control around 45 per -cent of the world's proven oil reserves, are now convinced maintaining that link would not block the common market project and at the same

time would benefit their eco-

"According to my information. GCC states now believe the dollar will have the final say as they expect from present indications that the U.S. economy will strengthen in future. This will in turn boost their currencies and consequently their economies," a Gulf bank manager told

"Another factor is that they have apparently become convinced such a link will not affect their plans to establish a common market on the grounds the existing gap among their currencies could be easily narrowed," he said. Excluding Kuwait, GCC states have officially pegged

their currencies to the Special

The surge in commodity

earnings will help to narrow

sharply Latin America's

trade deficits, analysts said.

They said they expect Chile's

1993 deficit of \$978.6 million

to be wiped out and Argenti-

na's \$3.7 billion and Col-

ombia's \$1.67 billion deficits

to be cut back sharply in

Brazil might not see any

benefit though because the

rise in world coffee prices has

come at the expense of its

decimated coffee crop — a

major earner for the South

And these nations are well

prepared to absorb higher

interest rates. Latin America

issued \$41 billion in debt

between 1990 and 1993 of

which 85-90 per cent was at

fixed rates, which avoids the

danger of rising rates, said

Ingrid Iversen, senior eco-

nomist on emerging markets

American nation.

Drawing Rights (SDR), a basket of major currencies used by the International Monetary Fund. But in practice, those currencies are linked to the U.S. dollar since it is the dominant component of the SDR basket.

Kuwait's dinar is pegged to a basket of currencies in which the dollar has 42 per cent. The other components are the German mark, 19 per cent, the British pound and the French franc, 13 per cent each, and other currencies.

"The exchange rates of the GCC currencies have been close and stable for a long time. So there is no work for a common denominator." said Hamad Al Sayari, governor of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency.

The close link with the

U.S. dollar has caused sharp fluctuations in Gulf currencies and its plunge in recent years has inflicted heavy losses on member states as the dollar is the official price of oil, their main export earner.

Other losses were caused by a rise in the import bill due to the decline in their currencies to the yen, pound, franc and other major currencies. According to official figures, U.S. exports to GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — stood at around \$9 billion in 1993.

Exports by such non-dollar countries as Japan, France, Britain, Italy and Germany exceeded \$30 billion.

The dollar's volatility has

prompted calls on GCC governments to separate their currencies from the greenback to avoid further losses. Some proposed following Kuwait's example by pegging their currencies to a basket. in which the U.S. dollar retains the lion's share.

"The continuous decline in the U.S. dollar means a continuation of our losses and a drop in the GCC currency exchange rates and their financial reserves," the UAE daily Al Khaleej said Sunday.

It said a weak dollar had also created deficits in the GCC budgets and balance of payments as oil has remained their main export item over the past two decades despite attempts to diversify their economies.

GCC states produce around 13 million barrels per day of oil, nearly 60 per cent of which go to the United States, Japan and the European Union. Their output accounts for more than 80 per cent of the total Arab crude production.

According to the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), Arab oil earnings in real terms have plunged to their 1973 level due to the weak dollar and the decline in crude prices.

"While nominal prices of oil jumped by nearly five times between 1973 and 1993. their price rose by only 95 per cent" the Kuwaiti-based group said.

## commercial sights on emerging markets

NEW DELHI (AFP) - The United States will focus its commercial sights increasingly on four Asian markets as it looks beyond Europe and Japan, a U.S. administration official said here.

The Chinese economic area — including China, Hong Kong and Taiwan -South Korea, Indonesia and India are among the 10 big emerging markets that would draw U.S. commercial attention in the years to come, Jeffrey Garten said.

Mr. Garten, the under secretary of commerce in the U.S. administration, listed Turkey, South Africa, Poland, Argentina, Brazil and Mexico as the other six markets which he said held far more potential than Europe and Japan.

"The Clinton administration is mounting a major commercial initiative toward these markets." Mr. Garten told the India-U.S. Business Council.

"To each of these, we will devote more time, money and manpower," he said. "We will establish new commercial bilateral mechanisms with most such markets" to revolve commercial difficulties and create business opportunities.

Nearly three-fourths of the growth in world trade in the

next 20 years will take place in the developing world, and most of it in the 10 big markets, Mr. Garten said. The 10 markets will double their share of the world gross domestic product to 20 per 14.1

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cent, and their share of imports is expected to exceed Japan and Europe combined by the year 2010, he said. "We will open new commercial facilities for U.S. companies visiting these markets, giving them a base of operations. We will focus on developing new programmes to generate goodwill between our countries and at the same

products," Mr. Garten said. In 1995, 10,000 U.S. companies would be supplied with information about the potential of the 10 markets, he said. Plans include seminars, trade missions and a market botline.

time stimulate sales of U.S.

Mr. Garten said the focus on these markets, especially China and India, signalled a change in the U.S. attitude and were part of Washington's increasing emphasis on commercial diplomacy.

"It is indeed a new world," Mr. Garten said. "America intends to remain a leader, but we must look over the horizon to the kind of world that is quickly evolving and to the new friends. allies and markets that we will need."

## Commodity producers gain even if interest rates rise

stable footing.

LONDON (R) — Many Third World countries are riding high on the back of isoaring commodity prices and economists see no reason for this to change despite major industrialised nations squeezing credit lines.

"I would expect the benefits of higher commodity prices to more than offset the damaging effects of higher interest rates," said Peter · West, an economic adviser at :West Merchant Bank.

: Commodity prices have -soared in 1994, responding to an expanding global economy and providing desperately needed foreign exchange · earnings for many developing

But Western central banks have moved to cool overheating economies by raising interest rates — a move which could threaten Third World earnings. The coffee price has quad-

rupled, aluminium has surged 90 per cent, copper has jumped 77 per cent, and nickel has gained 95 per cent. Economists said the biggest beneficiaries are in Latin

America — economies once

almost crippled by a debt

crisis but now on a more

BEIJING (R) — Thousands

of Chinese farmers have

abandoned their fields to join

a gold rush, and the illegal

prospecting is crippling state

mines, the China Daily Busi-

State-owned mines in cen-

tral Hebei and Shanxi pro-

vinces, Gansu and Sichuan in

the west and Jilin in the

northeast had come under

slege from wildcat miners,

who then dumped the pre-

cious metal on the black mar-

As many as 50,000 illegal

ket, the newspaper said.

ness Weekly has said.

at Moregan Grenfell in Lon-

Compared with the debt crisis "they are starting from

a stronger position and the vulnerability is much less."

African nations, gaining

mostly from coffee prices, are

one state-owned gold field,

collecting about 75 kilogram-

mes of gold a day, polluting

the environment through un-

supervised use of chemicals

and heaping up piles of waste

One such great mound of

rocks was swept down the

mountain by severe floods on

July 11, burying alive at least

51 people, most of them rela-

tives of the wildcat miners.

dampen the gold fever, the

report said. Prospectors re-

turned the next day to their

The heavy toll failed to

stone, it said.

China says gold rush crippling its state mines

not as well as developed to exploit the higher prices long

"They will gain some advantages but it will not be enough for them to turn around," Ms. Iversen said.

Willem Naude, macroeconomic coordinator at the Oxford University-based Centre for the Study of African Economies, said a danger is govemments will come under pressure to increase spending as a result of higher revenues "which might prove difficult to curtail once the boom is

Tanzania's assistant director of macro analysis in the Tanzanian planning ministry, Poctian Rweyemamu, said the commodity price rises should be positive, helping service its \$6 billion foreign debt and reduce reliance on internatinal aid. The Bank of Tanzania is controlling money circulation to offset inflation, he said.

Asian countries do not rely so heavily on commodity exports so they might feel the pinch more, economists said. But their booming exports for manufactured goods will more than offset this, they

in no mood to combat the

illegal mining after recent

bureaucratic changes which

left most provincial branches

threatened with abolition or

Mining officials said local

governments should have the

responsibility and power to

punish violators and maintain

normal production, but many

were themselves involved in

the illegal trade, the news-

Officials held out little

hope of controlling the gold

merger, it added.

paper said.

Gold Bureau officials were • rush.

## Bundesbank: '93 business profits plunged in western Germany

tors as exchange rates and

commodities prices, he notes.

In its analysis of 1993 pro-

fits, the central bank's

monthly report says that the

profits of firms in western

Germany operating in manu-

facturing, transport and trade

suffered an average 25 per

cent drop last year compared

with 1992, to a total of 95

billion marks. But the build-

ing and services sectors were

relatively spared by the reces-

sion, it adds.

FRANKFURT (AFP) -Businesses in western Germany suffered a sharp fall in profits and reduced investments and equity capital in 1993 due to recession and pressure on costs, the Bundesbank said in its monthly

On other points, the report says that consumer prices in western Germany rose by two per cent at an annual rate for the August-October period this year, against a rate of 2.5 per cent in the June-September period, and the federal state ("Bund") posted a deficit of 7.5 billion marks in October, against one of almost 10 billion in October last year.

The decline in the deficit was due to an 11 per cent fall in state spending, the central bank said. For the year's first 10

months, the federal state deficit is 23 billion marks, against 48.5 billion for the same period last year, the bank added.

Gold is officially a state

monopoly in China. But the

gap between the state pur-

chasing price and higher

\*black market prices, fuelled

by stron demand for gold

Jewellery, has led to wide-

spread illegal mining and pro-

The government launched

a crackdown on the booming

black market last June and

says the amount sold to the

state has since increased

The dip in net profit was only 16 per cent, due to lower As to inflation, the central tax resulting from a law bank said the annual rate was aimed at strengthening Ger-2.8 per cent in October in man competitiveness as a former West Germany, production location. against three per cent in Payroll costs of companies September. The central

last year dipped for the first bank's mid-term goal is inflatime since the early 1970s, by tion of two per cent a year. one per cent from the 1992 When asked about the poslevel. And lower costs due to sibility of a new reduction of work force cuts "will be fully key interest rates in Gerfelt in the coming years." many, Bundesbank chief

Business equity capital Hans Tietmeyer usually says (stockholders' equity) fell last the bank is waiting for a year by three per cent, the "better general view of the first decline since 1982. But economy," and says it is companies' situation in this watching changes in the inflarespect was still better in 1993 tiion rate and in the growth of than in 1990, a growth year, the M3 money supply in or in 1982, a recession year, framing monetary policy. the central bank said. It also monitors such fac-

"The experience of the last two years again shows how important it is for firms to take advantage of goodyears to strengthen their ability to resist" more troubled times, the central bank said.

A report issued by the IFO economic research institute says that industry in western Germany will more than double profits this year from last, to around 50 billion marks.

Finally, the Bundesbank said that the increased use of derivatives should not give rise to any lasting difficulties for German monetary policy. Such financial products will not "fundamentally" affect the central bank's ability to control inflation in the long run, it said.

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## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY NOVEMBER 21, 1994 By Thomas S Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The three Moon sextiles to Saturn. Jupiter and the Sun brings pleasant temperments and kinder dispositions, and we gain by keeping things practical, neat and orderly. We feel more con-

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Progressive friends are in the mood to give you some new ideas that can be helpful to you for sometime to come and later consider them carefully.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Discuss with influential persons and experts how to increase your worldly standing in your community but later use care in any business ventures.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have some original new ideas by which to make your fond dreams come true but don't try to put them into effect too hastily or you lose out. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Private investigations into what you can do to be more current in your outlet can bring better results than if you hold too tightly to the past.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21)
-Consider well what some extraordinary and unsual persons can do to aid you to greater worldly acclaim and then sit back and think over your part.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If you have some modern means by which you can better achieve the results you desire at

any risks or special outlets you want in the days ahead but later analyse how far you have prog-SCORPIO: (October 23 to

any activities this is the day to

decide upon but not to put into

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have an element of

good fortune early in the day in

November 21) A discussion athome may not seem to be taking trend you wish but you have possibilities to later solve this issue to everyones advantage. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is the day when communications to and

from you can have an original stance which can bring the possibility for real advancement for CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Look at your properly from an objective angle and

think about what private information you can get to increase and to enhance its value. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your most unique raients of a personal nature can

now be expressed with the assistance of a good friend who is very direct in stating his/her view-PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have an unusual idea what to do to show your worldly acumen so let a bigwig quietly

know what that is and sit back and let conditions work out.

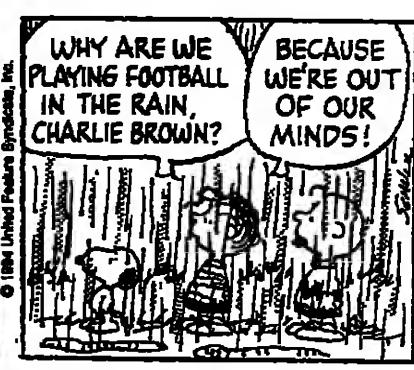
## prospectors were mining at

Peanuts









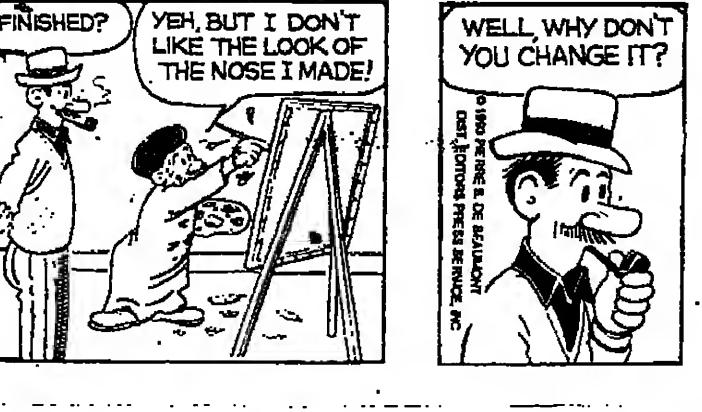
**Andy Capp** 





Mutt'n'Jeff





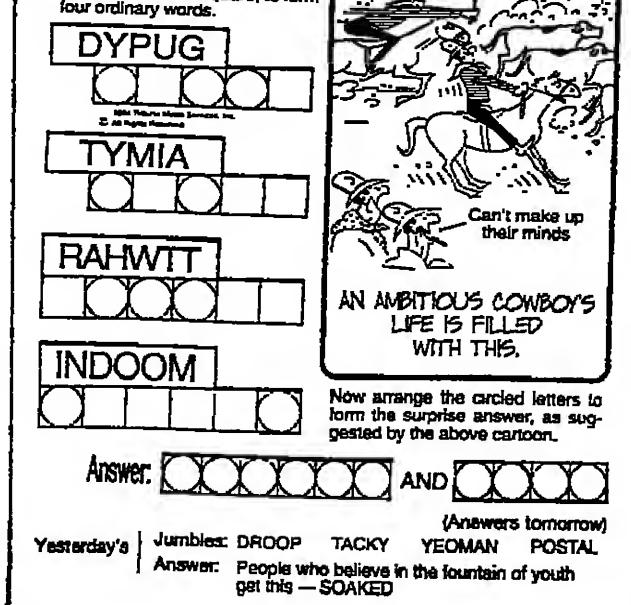


## Abu Dhabi to build \$120m glass factory

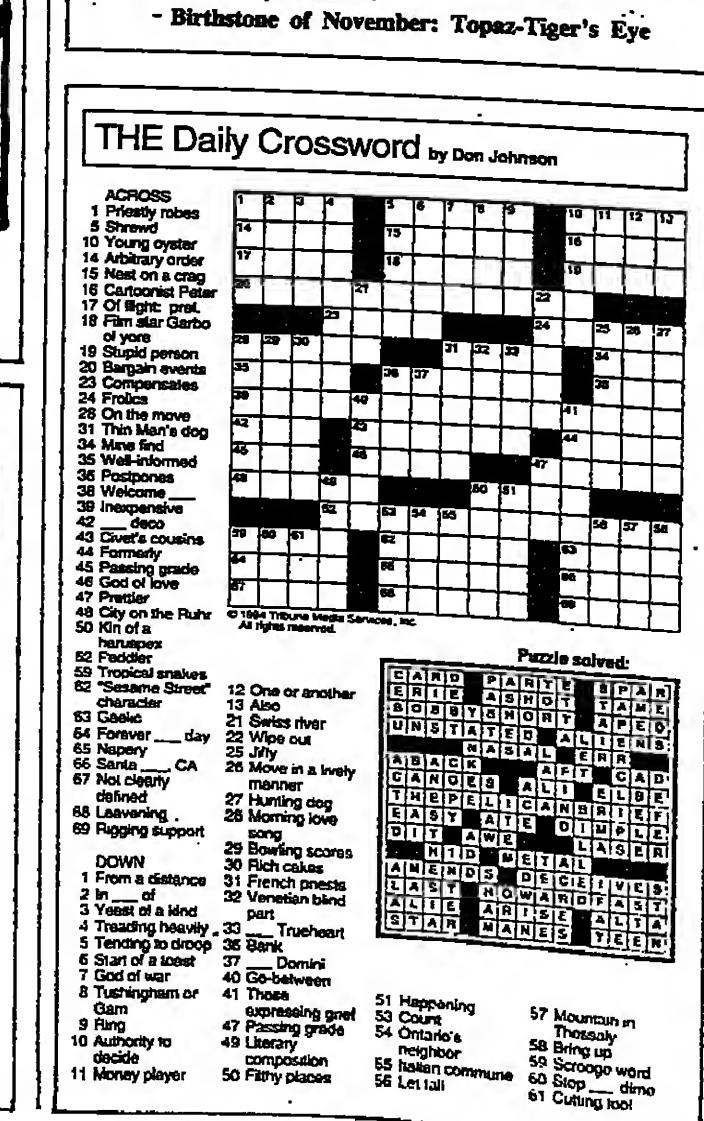
ABU DHABI (R) — A state-controlled investment company in the United Arab Emirates state of Abu Dhabi plans to build a glass factory costing \$120 million, the official Emirates News Agency (WAM) has said. "The Abu Dhabi Investment Company (ADIC)... will begin taking the necessary steps at the start of next year to set up a giant company to make plate glass at a cost of nearly \$120 million," WAM said, quoting a senior ADIC official. The agency said a foreign company, which it did not name, was carrying out a feasibility study for the project. It did not give further details. Abu Dhabi is the largest of seven members of the UAE. Abu Dhabi government interests own a majority of ADIC. ADIC has also signed a contract with an Italian firm to form a steel processing company, with a capital of around 10 million dirhams (\$2.7 million), WAM said. ADIC would hold 60 per cent.

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Breat Leads and the state of the

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Senate Republican leader Bob Dole said Sunday he was close to an agreement with the White House on the GATT global trade The state of the land accord, but said the measure still could have trouble winning ratification. Mr. Dole, seen as a key and the second of the second o

GATT agreement is near — Dole player in the debate over congressional approval of the tariff-cutting accord, said he was making progress in talks with members of President Bill Clinton's administration.

"We're getting close to an agreement," Mr. Dole told ABC television.

U.S. officials and GATT's executive director have said that failure by the U.S. Congress to ratify the

accord this year could be a death blow. The pact, signed last April by more than 100 countries, expands the General Agreement on

Tariffs and Trade and creates an oversight body, the World Trade Organisation. "My view is that we

should pass it this year... but we should fix it," Mr. Dole said of the U.S. authorising legislation. "If we can fix it, then I will vote for it."

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#### Foreign Exchange Market Summary (November 14 - November 18, 1994)

AMMAN — The dollar appreciated sharply against other major currencies at the end of last week. It ended the week 0.86 per cent higher against the yen, 1.54 per cent higher against the mark and 1.93 per cent higher against sterling. The dollar rose Monday due to traders' expectations of an imminent increase in American short-term interest rates from the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting the next day. The dolair also benefitted from the U.S. treasury secretary's remarks that he was pleased with the results of the Fed's intervention two weeks ago.

on the contracts the The mark suffered from concentrated sell orders that emerged on news that Sweden had agreed to join the European Union.

> The dollar continued its appreciation Tuesday. It rose on the FOMC's decision to raise short-term interest rates by 0.75 per cent, above market's expectation of a 0.50 per cent increase. The FOMC's decision was aimed at reducing inflationary pressures and inflationary expectations, especially after the announcement that capacity utilisation witnessed an unexpected increase to 84.9% in October, compared to 84.5% in September.

> On Wednesday, the dollar appreciated during early trading hours on news that the American Consumer Price Index rose slightly by 0.1% in October. The dollar retreated later that day, however, in view of dealer's concerns over rising inflationary pressure in the U.S., in spite of the recent interest rates hike.

> The dollar rose marginally against European currencies Thursday, while stabilising against the yen. Analysts indicated that dealers were now focusing on the U.S. bond market direction, for insight on the direction of the dollar's exchange rates.

> The dollar witnessed further appreciation at the end of the week on news that the U.S. bilateral trade balance with Japan declined to \$5.73 billion in September, from \$5.8 billion in August. The dollar's appreciation came despite the fact that the overall trade balance increased from \$9.68 billion to \$10.13 billion for the same period.

> The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.5553 marks, 98.58 yen and at \$1.5660 to the pound sterling.

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New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	11/11/9'4 Close	18/11/94 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound"	1.5969	1-5660	11.9517
Deutsche Mark	1.5313	1.5553	(1.54)%
Swiss Franc	1.2831	1.3185	[2.68]\$
French Franc	5.2640	5.3410	[1.44]%
Japanese Yen	97.73	98.58	(0.86)\$
USD Per STG			

	117/11/1994		18/11/1994	
Currency	1-Months %)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.00	6.25	5.31	6.31
Sterling Pound	5.37	6.93	5.37	6.75
Deutsche Mark	4.75	5.43	4.75	5.43
Swiss Franc	3.43	4.31	3.37	4.31
French Franc	5.25	6.12	5.31	6.25
Japanese Yen	2.12	2.62	2.13	2.63

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Pate: 20/11/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6990	0.7010
Sterling Pound	1.0935	1.0990
Deutsche Mark	0.4490	0.4512
Swiss Franc	0.5293	0.5319
French Franc	0.1307	0.1314
Japanese Yen*	0.7093	0.7128
Dutch Guilder	0.4005	0.4025
Swedish Krona	****	****
Italiao Lira <sup>±</sup>	0_0435	0.0440
Belgian Franc	2447777	*****

2,362 6,300 27,542 3,479 8,873 4,363 1,749 1,679 7,700 10,769 2,036 CLOSING PRICE 5.200 5.150 6.350 8.400 6.400 4.530 2.750 2.750 SAFIA INDISTRIES

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## Daily Business Beat

The following is a new column summarising financial and economic news that appeared a day earlier in Jordan's Arabic dailies. The news is compiled by our economic editor Samir Shafiq Ghawi

차차 Ministry of Supply sources have denied rumours that lentils are not available in the local market. The ministry, asked citizens and traders who want to buy the product to call at the ministry's warehouses to get their requirements (Al Ra'i).

\*\* Post and Communications Minister Hashem Dabbas has decided to introduce a "collect commercial correspondence" service early next year. Under this service, companies and individuals can receive return commercial letters or cards without postage fees paid by the sender. Mail charges will be covered by the receiving party under an agreement with the ministry (Al Ra'i).

\*\* Foreign assets in the banking system reached the equivalent of JD 3,345.3 at the end of September. The amount was JD 94.8 million or 2.9 per cent higher than the total posted at the end of August. Foreign assets represented 43.8 per cent of the total assets in the banking system (Al Aswaq)

\*\* A real estate dealer says that annual house rentals in Abdoun, Sweifiyeh, Um Utheina and Al Rabia range between JD 5,000 and JD 15,000. Rentals in Dahiyat Al Rashid, Tla Al Ali and the university area range between JD 3,500 and JD 7,000. Another real estate dealer says demand is highest for rentals averaging JD 1,200-JD 1,500 while most offers are in the range of JD 2,500-JD 4,000. On average, renting a square metre in western Amman costs JD 25 while a square metre rental in east Amman is about JD 15 per year (AL Aswaq).

The reduction of customs tariffs will negatively affect Jordan's industries, the general manager of a company has said. By cutting tariffs on electrical appliances, especially television, from 85 per cent to 50 per cent while reducing tariffs for local manufacturing by around 15 per cent, consumers would naturally turn to the foreign product. Another industrialist saw the tariff reduction as positive because it would bring a challenge to local manufacturers to improve the quality of their output (Ad-Dustour).

\*\* Car spare parts merchants are not abiding by the recent reduction of customs tariffs and this situation has brought in the Ministry of Supply and the association of car spare parts merchants to seek a solution. Both parties will hold a meeting over the issue in the next two days (Al Ra'i).

\*\* The Civil Service Commission received 3,196 employment applications last month, raising to 104, 105 the number of job seekers in the civil service until the end of October, 56 per cent of the applicants are female (Al Ra'i).

\*\* The 1995 budget of the Greater Amman Municipality totals JD 65,840,000 of which JD 8,990,000 are

allocated to build tunnels at Wadi Al Haddadeh, Al Sharq Al Awsat circle, and the Fifth Circle in Jabal Amman in addition to a municipality building in Al Muhajireen, improvements at Al Dakhiliyeh Circle and other projects in Sahab. The budget allocated JD 5 million for expropriation of land, JD 2,195,000 for road maintenance, JD 1,950,000 to asphalting and opening new roads, JD 4,450,000 to reasphalting some roads and JD 1,350,000 to build pavements. The Municipality will purchase new equipment for JD 3,113,000 (Al Ra'i).

\*\* Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi has urged Ammanites to pay their dues to enable the municipality carry out its duties. Dr. Abbadi said the municipality will activate its collection measures, noting that Ammanites owe GAM a total of JD 23 million (Al Ra'i).

\*\* Banks are contacting their customers to have them obtain a new version of cheque books and returntheir old checkbooks before Dec. 29. The technical change would allow for the automatic clearing of cheques between banks starting the beginning of next year as requested by the central bank (Al Aswag).

☆☆ Jordan's exhibition in Beshkic, Kyrgystan won the fourth place in terms of the organisation and the number of products displayed and was honoured with the exhibition's medal. Twenty-seven Jordanian industrial companies took part in the event (Al Aswaq).

\*\* Weather conditions have not been so good for the "olive season." According to an official at the Ministry of Agriculture, olives and olive oil will be sufficient for local demand but the volume for export will be less (Al

\*\* Expatriates have transferred home at total of JD 770 million last year. According to the Ministry of Labour, Jordan's workforce in 1993 was 895,300 persons and the number of expatriates was around 275,000 (Al Aswaq).

\*\* The Ministry of Supply has authorised raising prices of "popular food' and "quick meals" by 10 per cent and left pricing of other meals to the discretion of the association of restaurant owners in light of the location and conditon of each restaurant. As such, a plate of chickpeas of fava beans (foul) for example would now cost JD 0.250 instead of JD 0.220 while a falafel sandwich will now sell for 110 fils instead of 100 fils. By piece, every four falafels would cost 50 fils instead of 40 fils (Ad-Dustour)

\*\* All loans and credits granted by the Jordan Cooperation Organisation (JCO) for agricultural purposes are exempt from interest, the JCO director general said (Ad Dustour)

\* The peace treaty with Israel necessitates amending many economic laws but so far, the government has not yet put forward any amendment to parliament (Ad-Dustour).

## UAE urged to make sure banks hire more locals

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) private sector has renewed calls on the government to make sure banks employ more UAE nationals as part of plans to lessen reliance on Asians and other

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foreigners. The Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, which groups more than 20,000 companies and businessmen, made the call in a letter to government departments outlining proposals to end foreign domination

of bank jobs. It called for intensifying training of UAE nationals, offering incentives to encourage them to join banks, and forcing local and foreign banks to increase the number

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expense of expatriates. Increasing the number of nationals in banking jobs "could be achieved through cooperation among all competent departments, including the Emirates University, the labour and social affairs ministry, the Administrative Development Institute, the chambers federation, the central bank, the education ministry and the Emirates Banking Training Institute,'

of local employees at the

"They should join hands in mapping out policies in this connection, qualifying national employees and defining incentives, salaries other ways to encourage the citizens to take up jobs in this vital financial sector," the federation added.

it said in the letter.

UAE nationals account for less than 10 per cent of nearly 12,000 employees in the Gulf country's 47 banks. In some banks, the nubmer of native workers is below two per cent and in others they are virtually absent.

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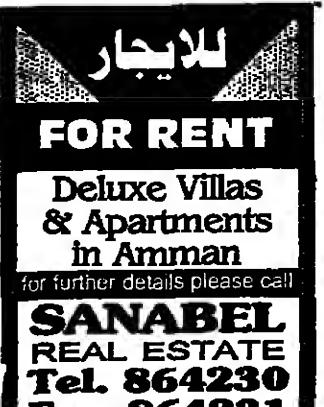


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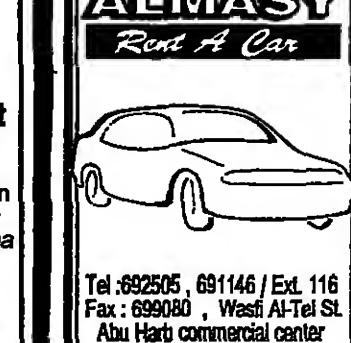
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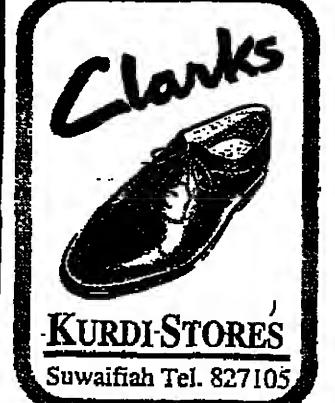
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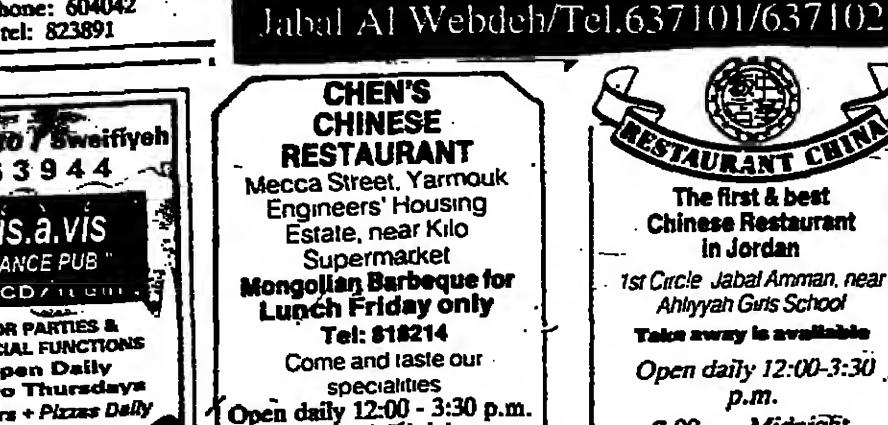


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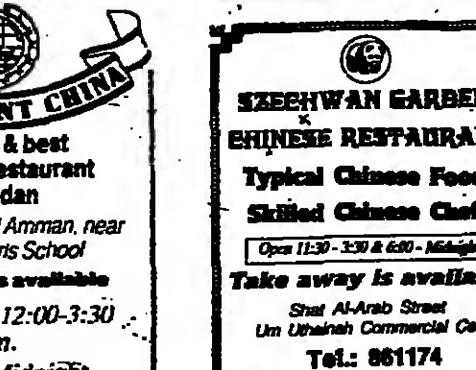
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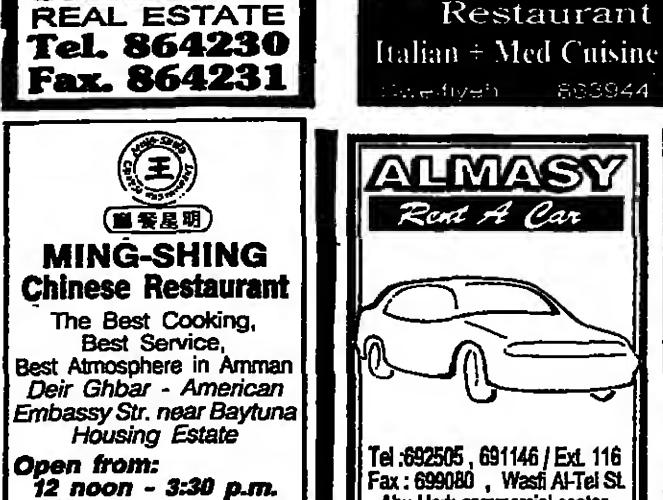
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## Angry Agassi crashes out; Sampras, Becker in final | sports in Brief

FRANKFURT (AP) — Once he lost his cool, Andre Agassi lost the match.

Top-ranked Pete Sampras survived a tough challenge from No. 2 Agassi to prevail 4-6, 7-6 (7-5) 6-3 Saturday and set up a clash against Boris Becker in the final of the IBM/ATP Tour World Championship.

Becker also fell behind, before 9,000 screaming fans in the festhalle helped him pull off a 6-7 (5-7), 6-4, 6-1 victory over Sergi Bruguera. Both Sampras and Becker have the chance to become the first to win two titles since the inception of the tour championship in 1990. Sampras won in 1991, and Becker - clinched it one year later.

· Becker is still undefeated and will collect \$1.24 million 2-if he wins. Sampras lost to Becker in round-robin play-: and will claim \$1.16 milion if he wins, less than Becker because of his one loss in the tournament.

"It's a rare occasion that : you have to beat the No. 1 twice in a week to win a tournament," said Becker, who also beat Sampras last month in Stockholm.

The \$3 million tournament is limited to the top eight players in the world, who first compete in round-robin groups until four semifinalists heights.

are decided. Sampras and Agassi are building up a rivalry as Agas-, si challenges the fellow American for the No. 1 ranking. Sampras is not yet ready to give up his throne and his ranking is not at stake even if he loses to Becker in the

"The game needs a good rivalry. But I didn't want to lose to him twice in three weeks," said Sampras, who lost to Agassi last month at the Paris Indoor.

Sampras raised his career record against Agassi to 7-5 and will be the first player to keep the No. 1 ranking for the whole year since Ivan Lendl in 1987.

"I showed a bit of heart out there and I didn't quit," he

Becker, a three-time -: Wimbledon champion who · like Agassi is on a comeback trail, ran into 'à determined Bruguera, a Spanish claycourt specialist and French Open champion who has raised his indoor game to new



Andre Agassi waves farewell with his towel after losing the semifinal at the ATP Tour championships in Frankfurt

early in the match.

Agassi came into the clash

with only one loss in his last

23 matches, after wrist

surgery in December, Agassi.

dropped to No. 32, but he

surged back, won the U.S.

Open and came here ranked

But Agassi's game col-

lapsed in frustration after he

lost the second set and had a

point penalty after several

outbursts that could have

even earned him a default

from umpire Rudi Berger of

Although Becker at No. 5 is ranked two placed below Bruguera, the German is considered one of the best

indoor players. But he needed all his experience to beat Bruguera, who lost his fourth indoor semifinal of the year. The Spaniard wasted three break points in the ninth game of the second set, and dropped his serve in the next to allow Becker to level the score.

"I never recovered from Germany. wasting those break points, "I let myself down mental-Bruguera said, ly, I should have never let it Becker also shook off reget the best of me," Agassi ported death threats. Police said of his dispute with the

said they received two calls this week, threatening Beck-The clash between Agassi er and his son Noah Gabriel. and the umpire came in the 'Such people call many 12th game, when Berger weeks in the year and I and overruled a linesman and gave the point to Sampras, other players are well protected," Becker said. . leaving Agasi trailing 15-30.

Sampras, two-time Wimb-At 15-40, facing three set ledon champion, overcame points, Agassi was given a some erratic play by himself warning for verbal abuse. But and an inspired performance. he went on to hold his serve by Agassi, who pressured the and send the set into the No. 1 into numerous errors

## Sabatani ousts Date, Pierce loses to Davenport

NEW YORK (AP) — Gab-riela Sabatini's giant step toward winning the Virginia Slims Championships got a little help from Kimiko Date's leg.

Sabatini, seeking; her first tournament title in 21/2 years, grabbed a spot in the best-of-5 sets final when she outlasted the eighth-seeded Date 4-6, 6-0, 6-3.

The Argentine righthander will take on seventhseeded Lindsay Davenport for the title and \$250,000 in this season-ending event. Davenport advanced by defeating No. 5 Mary Pierce 6-3, 6-2 in Saturday's first semifinal\_

Sabatini was one of the bright hopes on the women's tennis tour. She won this unique 16-player tournament in 1988 and took the U.S. Open two years later.

While she has not won a major tournament since then. she hasn't won a tournament of any kind since the Italian Open in may 1992. This is the 44th tournament she has played since, and will be appearing in her eighth

"I think the mental part has a lot to do with it, Sabatini said of her winless streak. "In 1900, I was mentally very focused and I played a great tournament, you know, at the Open when I

"Technically, today I think I'm a better player. But, of course, the mental part has a lot to do with it. If it is not there, I'm not there. "But, talking about this

tournament, everything is there mentally, physically, technically." It may be prophetic that her first-round opponent was

Martina Navratilova, playing in her final tournament before retiring as a singles play-. Sabatini sent Navratilova. the winningest player of all time, into retirement prob-

that to get past Date, who

ably earlier than she expected or wanted. And Sabatini did it by playing her best tennis in She needed to continue



Ianan's Kimiko Date hits a backhand during her match at the Virginia Slims Championships in New York (AFP photo)

ousted third-seeded Conchita Martinez in the quarterfinal round. But Date strained the quad muscle in her right leg, an injury that bothered the Japanese right-hander

against Sabatini. Date won the final three games to take the first set, breaking Sabatini in the eighth and 10th games. But Sabatini, cheered on by the Madison Square Garden crowd of 16,838, roared through the second set.

Davenport was aggressive from the baseline, outhitting Pierce in their long-range bombardments.

In this battle of sluggers, the 6-foot-3, 18-year-old Davenport took control early. She broke Pierce in the fourth game, then held on to wrap up the opening set in 31

Keeping Pierce on the run. and consequently negating her power. Davenport stepped up her own power game. ripping the ball deep and near the lines. After Pierce took a 2-1 lead, Davenport pulled even with a love game to begin a five-game run that carried her into the title

match. Gigi Fernandez and Natalia Zvereya successfully defended their doubles title, defeating Jana Novotna and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the 1991 Virginia Slims Cham-.

It ended a remarkable two days for Fernandez, a native of Puerto Rico who now lives in Aspen, Colo., and Zvereva of Belarus.

The world's top-ranked doubles team won their semifinal match by outlasting Patty Fendick and Meredith 4-6, 7-6 (9-7), 6-2 in the semifinals and will meet, Novotna and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario for this year's title. Novotna and Sanchez Vicario won the crown in 1992.

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario was named the official world champion of women's tennis Saturday after closing out 1994 by winning the yearlong Virginia Slims bonus pool and a record \$2,943,665.

Sanchez vicario won eight WTA tour tournament in 1994 Open. She lost to Steffi Graf in the Australian Open title match. "Anybody who wins two

Grand Slams in a year and is runnerup in a third...certainly deserves the title of world champion," said Brian Tobin, president of the International Tennis Federation. Sanchez Vicario earned \*\$2:146,665 during the year." By finishing first in the Virgi-

nia Slims bonus pool in singles, she received \$750,000, and earned an additional \$10,000 for finishing third in pionship winners, 6-3, 6-7 (4the doubles pool.

#### Baggio advocates Trapattoni as Italian boss

ROME (AFP) — Roberto Baggio called for Bayern Munich coach Giovanni Trapattoni to replace Italian coach Arrigo Saachi in the wake of Wednesday's 2-1 home loss to Croatia. The 1993 FIFA world footballer of the year told Italian press: "Saachi did not succeed in doing what he promised and the supporters were very disappointed because they were expecting another spectacle. "In my opinion, Trapattoni is the man for the job, even if a club coach can have difficulties running a national team.

#### Ivanisevic suspended for 2 months

FRANKFURT (AP) — Goran Ivanisevic has become the first player to be suspended from the ATP Tour when he received a two-month ban because of accumulated fines for code of conduct violations. The suspension expires the day before the start of the Australian Open, the first Grand Slam tournament of the year, in the last two weeks of January. In a statement released Saturday at the ATP Tour World Championship, the tour said the ban begins Monday. Ivanesevic, No. 4 in the world, was banned for accumulating \$10,000 or more in fines in 1994, the second year in a row he has exceeded the \$10,000 limit. The Croat with a volatile temper went over the limit when he was fined at the Paris Open in October. He received another fine Friday for swearing at alineswoman duringhis semifinal loss to Pete Sampras, and ATP officials said this when he went over the limit...

## Camacho outclassed by 'The Beast'

PRETORIA (AFP) T. South African Vyuani "The Beast" Bungu outclassed Puerio Rican Felix Camacho to retain his IBF world junior featherweight title Saturday. Making his first defence of the title he took from American Kennedy McKinney here three months ago, Bungu won comfortably on points over 12 rounds.

## Baseball talks halted for 10 days

WASHINGTON(AFP) — Negotiations between striking Major League baseball players and team owners were halted for 10 days Saturday so the union can scrutinise a new salary tax proposal from owners. The plan's presentation and a frank discussion of long-known differences were all took place in three days of talks that will resume November 28 or 29 after the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday. The tax plan would force teams with player salaries over the league average, \$36 million for this past season, to pay a penalty that would provide extra money for teams at the low end of the revenue-salary scale.

#### IAAF criticise Norwegian sports authorities

LONDON (R) — The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) criticised the Norwegian Sports Association (NIF) Saturday for clearing sprinter Aham Okeke of drugs offences and said he was still liable to a life ban if he infringed again. Okeke was banned from competition for three months after testing positive for the stimulant pseudoephedrine at the Stockholm Grand Prix July 12. The legal committee of the Norwegian Sports Association (NIF) Friday cleared Okede, saying it had no doubt that he had tested positive but ruled that he had not taken the drugs wilfully to enhance his performance.

#### China edges Russia in gymnastics

DORTMUND (AP) — A brilliant performance by Huang Huadong on the pommel horse Saturday helped China edge Russia to win the men's title at the Gymnastic World Team Championships. China and Russia turned the meeting of the world's top gymnastic powers into a two-country duel that wasn't decided until the evening's final routines. The Asian power finished at 283.333 points, shading silver-medalist Russia at 282.158. Uraine won bronze at 281.086, winning out against Belarus and Germany. Japan, third at the 1992 Olympics, was a distant sixth. Huadong's dazzling routine, for which he won gold at the recent Asian Games, led to wild cheers from his teammates after he stuck a perfect dismount. The judges awarded him: the highest score for any routine of the evening at 9.837.

## Trinidad and Tobago spoils U.S. anniversary

PORT OF SPAIN (AFP) — Leonson Lewis spoiled a U.S. football anniversary celebration Saturday, scoring in the 35th minute to give Trinidad and Tobago a 1-0 triumph over this year's World Cup hosts. The friendly match came exactly five years after a 1-0 victory over Trinidad and Tobago sent the U.S. team into the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy. The loss was the second disappointment for the U.S. squad since the World Cup. The U.S. team was blanked 2-0 by England in Wembley Stadium. U.S. players reached the final 16 at the World Cup.

## Schumacher Jr. can't match Michael

MACAU (AFP) — Ralf Schumacher of Germany could not match his Formula One world champion brother Michael as he came in fourth in Sunday's Macau Formula, Three Grand Prix. Schumacher, driving a Dallara, was 15.58 sec behind the surprise winner, Sascha Maassen of Germany, who had begun 18th on the grid. Maassen, 25, also driving a Dallara, timed 1hr 6min 3.75 sec to beat race favourite Kevlin Burt of England, 3.3sec off the pace, with Jan Magnussen of Denmark third, 6.45sec behind the leader.

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Turkey's Halil Mutlu celebrates his victory after setting a new world record at the World Weightlifting Championships (AFP photo)

## Bulgarian grabs3 golds in weightlifting

ISTANBUL (AP) — Bulgarian and American athletes amassed a total of five gold medals Saturday, the second day of the World Weightlifting Championships.

Nikolai Peshalov of Bulgaria won all three gold medals in the men's 59 kilogramme category and also broke a

world record. American Robin Byrd, competing in the women's 50 kilogrammes Class, became the first American since 1989 to bag two gold medals and a

Peshalov, holder of the clean and jerk, and combined world records coming into

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the competition, broke his

own clean and jerk record by

lifting 168 kilogrammes, thus adding to his old mark

another half a kilo (1 pound). Peshalov lifted 135 kilos in

the snatch event for a com-

bined total of 303 kilos, 5.5

kilos more than second place

Hafiz Suleymanoglu of Tur-

Earlier, Byrd finished with a combined total of 175 kilos

in the women's snatch, and clean and jerk events, 10

kilos more than second-place

Before Byrd, Karyn Mar-

shall was the last American to

win a gold in 1989 in an international weightlifting

competition in Manchester,

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Marathon TOKYO (R) — Valentine Egorova of Russia spurted in the last six kilometres to win the Tokyo International Women's marathon in two hours, 30 minutes and 9 seconds Sunday.

"I am really glad to win the race," said the 30-year-old Egorova, gold medalist in the Barcelona Olympics.

The race got off to a slow start although Carole Rouillard of Canada and Silvana Pereira of Brazil pulled away from the leading pack soon after leaving the stadium. The two ran neck-to-neck. extending their lead over

other numers including Egor-The pack of eight runners, including Egorova, caught up with the top two runners shortly after clearing the

21.095-km halfway mark. Egorova, who set the world's fifth fastest time of 2:23.33 by finishing second in last April's Boston Marathon, pulled away at 36.6-km mark.



Barcelona Olympic champion Valentina Egorova of Russia raises her arms as she crosses a finish line in the Tokyo women's marathon for the second year running (AFP photo)

## **Celtics** defeat **Bullets** in final second

LANDOVER, Maryland (R) - Dee Brown sank a pair of free throws with 1.6 seconds left to spoil the Bullet debuts of Chris Webber and Juwon Howard and give the Boston Celtics a 103-102 victory over Washington Saturday.

Calbert Cheaney hit a jumper from the key with 1.6 seconds left to give Washington a 102-101 lead, but Rex Chanman was whistled for a blocking foul against Brown at the same time, giving him the chance to tie and win the game at the line.

Brown led Boston with. 22 points while Dominique Wilkins and Dino radja each had 21. Chapman scored 19 for Washington.

In Denver, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 26 points and reserve Sam Cassell added 22 as the Houston Rockets remained unbeaten with a 109-101 win over the undermanned Denver Nuggets.

The defending champion Rockets, who tied an NBA record by winning their first 15 games last season, improved to 9-0.

Reggie Williams scored 26 points and Bryant Stith netted 25 for the Nuggets, who lost their second straight game after winning four in a At Golden State, Latrell

Sprewell scored 39 points and Tim Hardaway added 26 as the streaking Warriors held on for a 119-115 victory over the Utah Jazz.

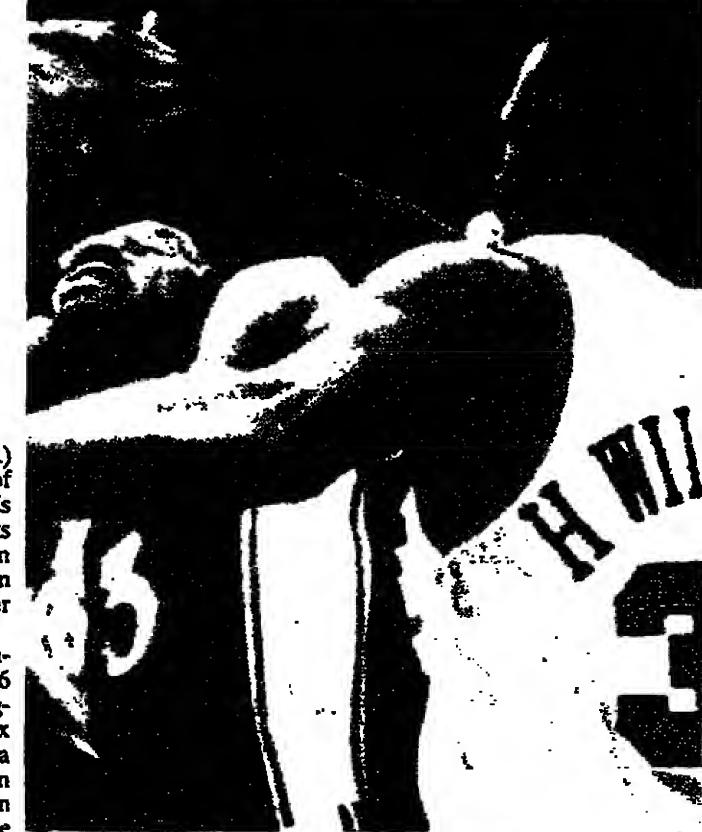
Ricky Pierce chipped in with 21 for the Warriors, who are off to their best start ever after eight games at 7-1. Tom Gugliotta, who came to the Warriors in a trade for

three points in 21 minutes on 1-of-5 shooting from the Karl Malone scored 32 points, Jeff Hornacek had 24 and John Stockton contri-

Chris Webber, scored only

buted 23 for Utah, which fell In New York. Charles Smith scored 24 points and teamed with Herb Williams to lead a first-quarter explosion as the Knicks overcame the absence of all-star centre Patrick Ewing to record a 92-79 victory over the Atlan-

ta Hawks In Charlotte, the Indiana pacers took charge just before and then after the half of their way to a 102-89 visitor's victory over the Hornets. "We played a complete



Atlanta Hawks Stacey Augmon (centre) tries to slip through New York Knicks Charles Oakley (left) and John Starks (right) to get to the basket (AFP photo)

Larry Brown. "The most significant thing tonight was to see us play two great teams back-to-back and win."

Alonzo Mourning led the Horners with 19 points and 11 rebounds, but committed eight turnovers.

In Milwaukee, Gary Payton scored 25 points and Sam Perkins keyed a 20-6 Sonics run that bridged the first and second quarters as Seattle salvaged the finale of a four-game road trip with a 120-96 rout of the Bucks.

## **GOREN BRIDGE**

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+Q65 North East South e Pass Pass Opening lead: Jack of 4 It's easy to play quickly, but not

necessarily advisable. A well-known player fell victim to itchy fingers on this deal from a tournament aboard the m.s. Royal Viking Sun's trans-Atlantic craise. The auction was routine. With

19 high-card-point hand and fourcard trump support. North had no problem in raising South's one-

West led the top of the club sequence and, after a moment's reflection. East rose with the ace and

returned a club. Declarer won in dummy and led a trump. East shot up with the ace, shifted to a dismond and West used the diamond entry to switch back to clubs for East to ruff. Down one. Declarer apologized sheepishly to partner, admitting to be guilty of a simple error of omission. There was

no rush to draw trumps. The first order of business was to protect against a club ruff. That could be accomplished easily enough. After winning the second club declarer should have cashed two top hearts, discarding a club from hand on the second. That would have clipped the defenders'

wings.
No matter which defender later wins the first trump, declarer will be able to ruff the next chih high in hand. All that would then remain would be to guess the dismond position (not difficult once East turns up with the other two missing aces) to bring home the game.

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## United go top as Newcastle crash; PSG advance

LONDON (AFP) — Champions Manchester United went top of the English Premiership for the first time this season after a comfortable 3-0 victory over Crystal Palace to replace Newcastle who slipped into third spot aftera 3-2 defeat at Wimbledon.

First-half goals from Denis Irwin and Eric Cantona and a second half strike by Andrei Kanchelskis made it eight home league wins in a row for Alex Ferguson's side and took their Old Trafford goals aggregate to 20 with none conceded.

Ferguson expressed delight at the way his side, containing youngsters Gary Neville and Simon Davies, had performed against Alan Smith's team, saying:

"We did really well and some of our football was terrific. They gave us a few worrying moments because they're an aggressive side and had a go but once we got the second, that killed them off." Newcastle were toppled from pole position as they

once again fell at Wimbledon

in an amazing game at Selburst Park. Kevin Keegan's team have never won away against Wimbledon and the luck was against them again even though goals from Reter Beardsley and Paul Kitson hauled them back to 2-2 after

going behind it strikes from

Andy Clarke fand Efan Eko-

Even against 10 men they were unable to snatch a point as Wimbledon sealed their third win in their last four League matches with a Mick Harford header to climb clear of trouble despite having skipper Vinnie Jones sent off for a second bookable off-

into second spot with a 3-1 victory at Ipswich with goals from Alan Shearer, Chris Sutton and Tim Sherwood. Ipswich player-coach John Wark criticised his players after the defeat, saying: "Blackburn could have had five and were taking the mickey at the end. That's

what disappoints us most of

In-form Blackburn moved

Gerry Francis could not have got off to a more dramatic start in his new job as manager of Tottenham Hotspur as he watched his side cancel out a 3-0 deficit only to see Aston Villa grab all the points with a Dean Saunders goal in the dying seconds. The former QPR manager was clearly disappointed by

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Tottenham Hotspurs' star German striker -during their Premiership match Nov. 19 (AFP Jurgen Klinsmann (right) beats Aston Villa's defender Paul McGrath to the ball in mid air

the result, saying: Football can be so cruel. I thought we could have gone on to win the game but then Dean Saunders got a wonder-goal leaving us with nothing."

Francis, appointed as Spurs boss Tuesday, could hardly believe it as Villa looked set for their first win ten games as they centred into a 3-0 lead in just 27 minutes with goals from Dalian Atkinson and two from youngster Graham Fenton.

Spurs rallied with a goal by Teddy Sheringham before the interval and completed a remarkable comeback when German star Jurgen Klinsmann slotted a penalty shortly after the break before stabbing home his second 20 minutes later.

Francis' old club QPR provided new manager Ray Wilkins with the perfect start to his tenure as they defeated Leeds 3-2 with England striker Les Ferdinand, who only passed a late fitness test. scoring twice.

Clearly delighted with a debut victory, Wilkins confirmed that Ferdinand was happy to remain at Loftus Road despite recent speculation linking him with possible moves to Arsenal. "I spoke to him for five

minutes. He's perfectly happy to be here," said Wilkins. Bruce Grobbelaar survived a potentially traumatic ordeal to keep a clean sheet thanks largely to a Paul Dickov penalty miss for Arsenal

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— as Southampton ended a run of six games without a win courtesy of Jim Magilton's first goal for the club. Grobbelaar, cheered on and off the pitch by Saints fans in his first game back in England since bribery and match-fixing allegations were made against him, played a

full part in the success. Nottingham Forest, who were top of the table at one stage this season, were beaten 1-0 at home by Chelsea and have now taken just one point from their last four games, failing to score in any of them.

But gaolkeeper Mark Crossley refuted suggestions that the Forest bubble had burst, saying: "We're not having much luck at the moment, but we will bounce back because we've got so many talented players in the

Dan Petrescu's 28th minute winner took the pressure off Sheffield Wednesday, whose 1-0 victory was their first League win in five games. A goal from American winger Cobi\_Jones, gave Coventry a 1-0 win over Nor-

Romanian international

PSG move closer to leaders Nantes In Paris, Paris Saint Ger-

main gained ground on French league leaders Nantes as they beat St. Etienne 3-1. It was PSG's fourth away win in a row, and completed without influential Brazilians Ricardo and Valdo, plus French international striker David Ginola.

Nantes, without injured Reynald Pedros, could only draw 0-0 at home to Bastia, cutting their lead from six to

four points.

However, St. Etienne virtually controlled the whole ofthe first half, but PSG still managed to lead 2-1 at the interval.

St. Etienne opened the scoring through defender Patrick Moreau, who beat keeper Bernard Lama from close in after a corner on 35 minutes. However Etienne ceach Elie Baup then watched his side concede two goals from dead ball kicks in the space of five minutes.

First Paul Le Guen scored straight from a corner in the 39th minute, and Alain Roche beat Gregory Coupet from a Daniel Bravo corner just before the interval.

Before the match, about 100 Paris Saint Germain supporters attacked 80 of their opposite numbers with iron bars in St. Etienne town centre, said police.

Barnard Valezy, in charge ofmatch security, reported at least one serious injury, and l3 arrests.

Nantes' trio Patrice Loko. Jean-Michel Ferri and Nicolas Ouedec made continual sorties on Bastia's goal, but could not breach their rocklike defence.

Nantes could even have lost the game as Bastia began to expose gaps at the back. Stephane Ziani even hit the left-hand post of Dominique Casagrande in the 24th mi-

Casagrande again was in dnager three minutes before

time, but he took the ball from the feet of Bastia striker Anton Drobnjak. Bastia's Cyrille Rool was sent off in the last minute.

Cannes retained third spot with a creditable 0-0 draw at Monaco. Lyon, who play at Strasbourg on Sunday, remain in fourth place. Bordeaux beat Lille 1-0 through an early Laurent Fourtier goal, before both teams were reduced to 10 men.

Lille's Fabien Leclerc was sent off in the 49th minute, and Bordeaux's Didier Senac followed his footsteps in the 69th minute.

Dortmund lose 100 per cent home record

In Bonn, Borussia Dortmund lost their 100 per cent home record as they were held 1-1 against Freiburg Saturday to cut their German championship lead to just two points from Werder Bre-

Bremen won 3-1 at Uerdingen, including two goals from man of the match Mario Basler.

Dortmund keeper Stefan Klos had not conceded a goal at home all season till Ralf Kohl's 76th minute strike, cancelling out Andreas Moeller's opener on the hour. Klos had gone 546 minutes without letting in a goal.

Bayern Munich were leading 2-1 at Karlsruhe with two minutes to go. But then Eberhard Carl equalised for Karlsruhe, and Munich's Samuel Kuffour of Ghana and Markus Schupp were both sent off for professional fouls. Worse still, the misdemeanors were in front of Franz Beckenbauer, watching his first match as Bayern club president.

Munich are in eighth place. six points from Dortmund. Borussia Moenchengladbach held on to third spot, despite falling at Eintracht Frankfurt through goals from Ghanaian Anthony Yeboah and Nigeria's Augustine Okocha. Heiko Herrlich hit a consolation for Borussia in

the last minute. Switzerland's Ciriaco Sforza's last minute goal for Kaiserlautern against MSV Duisburg shot them four places up the table to fourth

Jorg Albertz's late equaliser for Hamburg in a 1-1 draw at Cologue Friday could-not prevent them falling from fourth to fifth spot. And the same night, midtable Schalke 04 had the performance of the week to thrash Dyname Dresden 4-0.

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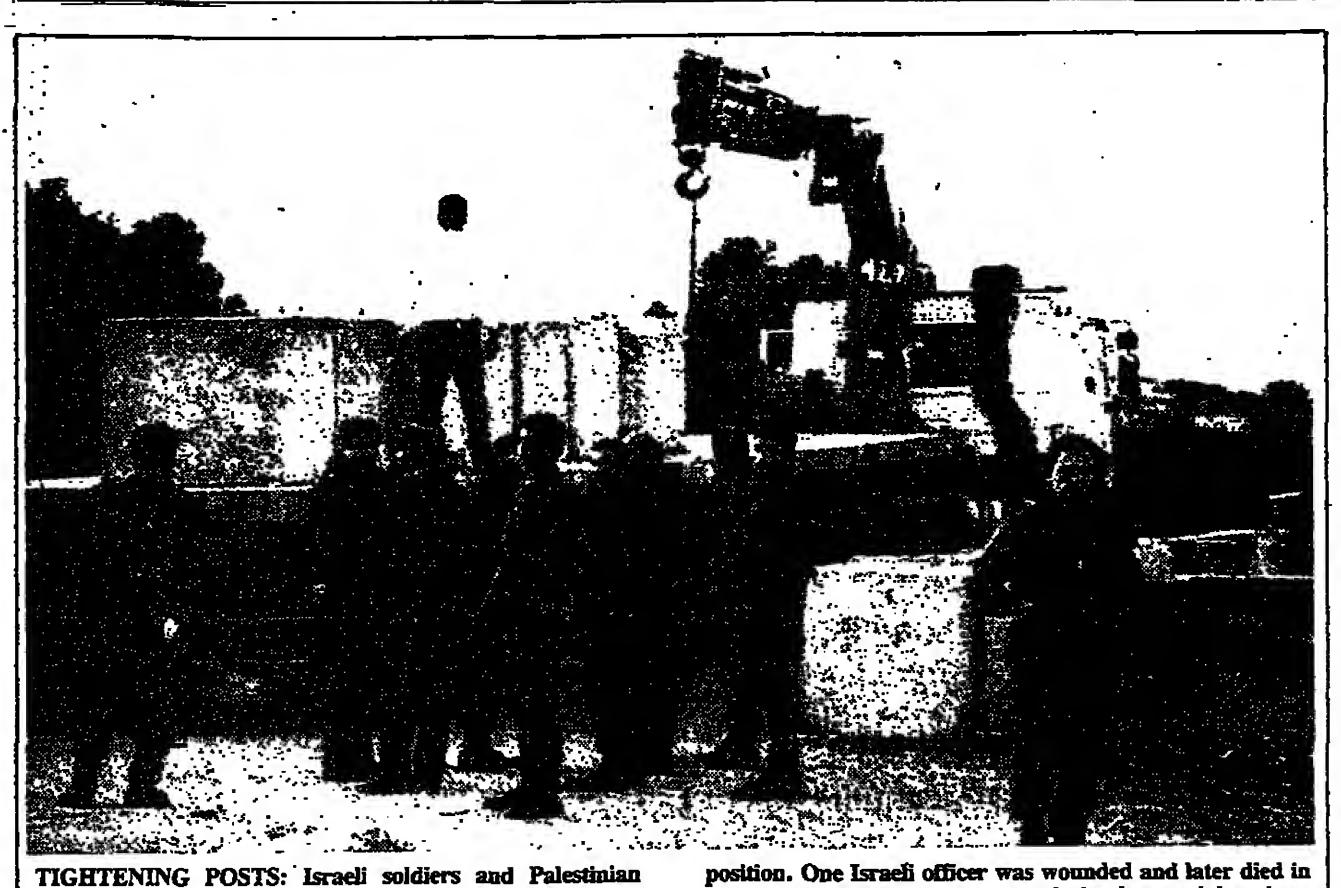
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## Lebanese Christians denounce Geagea trial

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Christian commentators denounced the murder trial of former Christian warlord Samir Geagea on Sunday as a political manoenvre against their weakened community.

A newspaper editor said the trial, which opened on Saturday and is seen as one of the most important in Lebanon's history, must not be allowed to become a show trial like the 1950s stalinist trials in Eastern Europe.

 Another columnist accused the Syrian-backed government of continuing by other means the 1975-90 civil war from which the oncedominant Christian minority emerged weakened and subordinated.

Mr. Geagea, 42-year-old ex-leader of the disbanded Lebanese Force (IF) militia. is accused of a February church bombing that killed 11 worshippers and the 1990 murders of a Christian rival and his family.

police reorganise and strengthen the Israeli position in the

Nezarim junction in central Gaza Strip just before dawn

Saturday. A few hours later, a Palestinian car stopped near

from where the picture is taken and opened fire on the

"The overwhelming majority of citizens firmly believe that Geagea — the only Christian chief still in the country who has not toed the government line — is the victim of an implacable political manoeuvre," wrote Issa Goraicb, editor of the French-language newspaper l'Orient-lie Jour.

"We hasten to emphasise what for us — because we will never allow Beirut to become the Prague of the 1950s everyone accused is innocent until proved guilty," Mr. Goraieb added.

Supporters outside the court asked why Mr. Geagea was on trial while leaders of other sectarian militias hold high political office.

"Is it fair that Geagea stands trial while (NABIH) Berri is speaker of parliament? a-Geagea supporter asked. Mr. Berri headed the Shiite Muslim Amal militia during the war.

Rafik Khoury, commentator for the Arabic-language deily Al Anwar, said the government had failed to achieve national reconciliation or a Muslim-Christian poliltical balance since the war.

"The Lebanese situation

attack (AFP photo) (see page one)

seems to be a continuation of the war by other means ... while people wait for the final word from the court, they will keep asking whether the authorities have resolved a problem or created a probiem," Mr. Khoury said.

Mr. Geagea is the only one of the Muslim, Christian and Druze chieftains of the civil war to go on trial.

Before his arrest in March he saw himself as the toughest opponent of the government and the continued presence of 35,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon, whom many Lebanese see as depriving their country of its independ-

Mr. Gorzieb pointed out that authorities outlawed the Lebanese Forces by decree in March without waiting for a court ruling on the two cases. Mr. Geagea had turned the LF into a political party in

hospital. He was from the same unit that last week lost three

officers in a suicide attack on the position. The Islamic

fundamentalist Hamas claimed responsibility for this last

Mr. Goraieb asked why authorities were trying Mr. Geagea while forgetting a string of unresolved political assassinations not covered by a 1991 amnesty for civil war

They included the 1978 murder of Christian chieftain Tony Francieh and the killing of President Bashir Gemayel in 1982, President Rene Moawad in 1990 and Prime Minister Rashid Karameh in

Some ministers in the government "trembled" when the Frangieh case was recently opened before it was suddenly closed again." Mr. Goraieb wrote.

# Shipment of Jordanian tomatoes enters Israel

grading plant in the Jordan

Valley and also processes

tomatoes into paste,

appeared to have played a

key role in ensuring that the

shipment met with the stan-

dards sought by the Israelis in

terms of sizing, grading as

our facilities to any Jordanian

exporter to Israel or any

other place to do the sorting.

grading and packing so as to

ensure that the shipments

conform with the standards

and specifications sought by

importers," said Mr. Abu

ment" clearing both sides of

the bridge, "I expect several

consignments to follow on

Monday and throughout the

week," Mr. Lawzi told the

The shipment came after

the private sector exporter,

the Jordan Valley Company,

and an Israeli importer

reached a compromise price,

Israel turned to Jordan for

its needs of tomatoes this

month after imposing a ban

on produce from its tradition-

al sources in the Gaza Strip

citing a cholera outbreak

there. The ban led to serious

shortages of tomatoes in

immediately known.

With the first "test ship-

"We stand ready to extend

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Jordan Times.

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A five-tonne consignment of Jordanian tomatoes entered Israel on Sunday after successfully passing quality control and specification tests on both sides, clearing the way for larger consignments ordered by Israeli importers, senior officials said.

The shipment, which was sent across the River Jordan Bridge in the north, was the first Jordanian export to Israel and follows the signing of a peace treaty between the two countries last month.

Several hundred tonnes of tomatoes, which are in short supply in Israel, are expected to follow in the next weeks, said Salem Al Lawzi, director-general of the staterun Jordan Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO).

The first shipment was sorted, graded and packed at the government-owned Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (AMPCO) in the Jordan Valley, said Abdul Rahman Abu Nowar. marketing and industrial manager of the company.

In interviews with the Jordan Times, the officials denied an Israeli report that an earlier consignment of tomatoes sent across the bridge was returned by the Israelis because the produce did not meet with the specifications sought by the importers.

The consignment, which was prepared by the private sector, was turned back by Jordanian quality and specifications control authorities because they found that the shipment not acceptable under the standards set by

the Israelis, the officials said. AMPCO, which maintains a well-equipped packing and Israel since the Israeli farmers had also cut production following a drop in price several months ago.

tomatoe has hit \$3 (JD 2.1) in the wake of the shortage. Abdul Rahman Abu Snepeh, marketing manager of AMO, meanwhile

areas and that he expected the problem to linger for a few weeks more pending the arrival of tomatoes from

AM O, an umbrella body for all agricultural exports and imports of Jordan, has issued permissions to exporters for around 800 tonnes of tomatoe shipments to Officials expect to mainnes of tomatoes every day in tain an average daily shipwinter and regularly exported ment of around 150 tonnes around 350 tonnes. per day as the process gets

But the argument does not but the actual figure was not solve the problem in the mar-While Jordanian exporters were seeking an over \$2 per kilogramme price, the Israelis were offering only \$1.5, industry sources said summer.

Tomatoe production in the summer peak season exceeds 4,000 tonnes per day, dropping to around 1,000 tonnes in winter season. This explains the low prices in summer and the high prices in winter.

The price in the Israeli market for a kilogramme of

sought to address complaints over the rising price of tomatoes in the Jordanian market. He said a shortage of the produce in the market was the result of delayed production and harvesting in some

farms in the southern Jordan In a statemnet carried by the Jordan News Agency. Petra, Mr. Abu Sneneh stressed that the tomato exports to Israel would not be at the expense of the local market. He said Jordan produced an average of 750 to 1,000 ton-

The shipments to Israel will be part of the 350 tonnes per day set aside for daily exports and as such the market would not feel the difference, he argued.

ket since local prices have gone up to 700 to 800 fils a kilogramme compared with the 100 fils to 150 fils a -kilogramme price during

#### Clinton Jam session becomes bootleg recording

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WASHINGTON (AFP) — A recording of President Bill Clinton's saxophone session at a Prague club is being marketed by a mail order firm as a bootleg compact disc, with no objections from the White House. The unauthorised recording, including Summertime and My Funny Valentine, is being sold by Stash, a New York jazz recording company. "The first song he plays is kind of rough because he was using a new saxophone, but the second song he plays respectably," said Stash owner Bernard Brightman. The 18-minute CD sells or \$15. White House spokeswoman Ginny Terzano said the CD is "basically a bootleg version," and that Mr. Clinton did not know he was being recorded. But she added that White House lawyers were making no effort to block distribution of the recording. "I have heard that it's great music," the Clinton spokeswoman said. Mr. Brightman said he got a thank-you note from White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers after sending her a copy of the recording. He said the New York Daily News gave a thumbs-down to the performance: "They said it was sure to go aluminum."

#### Clintons leave their mark on Asia

JAKARTA (AFP) — At least three Indonesian families have named their newborn babies after U.S. President Bill Clinton, who visited the country last week for an Asia-Pacific economic summit, the Antara News Agency said. Two families in Jakarta have named their baby boys Clinton Budiman and Clinton Martono, Antara said, while a family in Medan, North Sumatra are calling their son Clinton Pasaribu. First lady Hillary Clinton was similarly honoured during the couple's overnight stay in the Philippines before they went to Jakarta for the Nov. 15 summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. She cradled newborn Hillary Berceno, at a government hospital she visited in Manila.

#### Jilted lover tries to immolate girl

RABAT (AFP) — A young man poured petrol over a girl and set her alight after she spurned his proposal of marriage, press reports said. They said that Taoufiq Abdul Majid took his revenge after learning that Malika Sarfari, 20, intended to break off their relationship. He waited outside her school with a can of petrol and committed the act when she confirmed her decision. They said Mr. Sarfari was in a coma with serious burns in a specialist Rabat hospital. One paper, Al Alam, said the girl's parents had complained to the local police four times that Abdul Majid was pestering their daughter but no action

## Ukrainian banknotes used

MOSCOW (AFP) — Ukrainians recycle 35 tonnes of used banknotes (karbovanets) into toilet paper each month because of cellulose shortages, the Russian daily Sevodnia said. Ukrainian banks send old banknotes to the Dnepropetrovsk papermill where they account for a quarter of its toilet paper production, according to factory manager Vladimir Vereshak. The toilet paper comes in three colours pink, green and blue which correspond to the original banknote hues. Vereshak vouched for its "perfect" quality.

BELIING (R) — Prices forrare Pekinese and other coveted lapdogs are crashing in the Chinese capital as city fathers debate exorbitant licence fees, a Beijing newspaper reported Sunday, "It doesn't matter how good the dog or how low the price, they aren't moving," a dog a peddler at one of Beijing's once thriving black markets told the official Wen Hui daily. "We can't even give" them away,' he added.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Rains expected in Jordan

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AMMAN (J.T.) — A spokesman for the Meteorology Department said Snnday a deep depression now centred over the northern Egyptian coasts accompanied by a cold air mass will start affecting the country as of Monday morning, causing fresh winds and heavy rainfall. The sources warned of poor visibility, particularly in the southern and eastern regions, and possible floods in valleys and low-lying areas.

## Sampras wins ATP tour final

FRANKFURT (AFP) — Pete Sampras can buy the turkey for next week's American Thanksgiving holiday celebrations after winning a second career title on Sunday at the \$3 million ATP tour final and collecting the champion's cheque of \$1.2 million. The 23-year-old world number one — the first man to hold the top spot for an entire calendar

year since Ivan Lendl in 1987 — dashed the hopes of Boris Becker in front of 9,000 German fans with a 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4 win. Sunday's cheque took his earnings for the year to \$3.6 million. It was a rewarding finish to the year for Sampras who was forced out of competition for several weeks late in the summer because of ankle tendon problems (see inside).

## Oman appoints two women to council

MUSCAT (R) — Oman's ruler Sultan Qaboos on Sunday appointed two women to the country's consultative council. He published a decree appointing radio news presenter Tayyabe Bint Mohammad Ben Rashid Al Maawali and Shukur Bint Mohammad Ben Salem Al Ghamari to the consultative Shura Council. The two women were nominated in elections last August from Muscat's provinces. Women's participation inthe vote and their right to be pominated is limited to the capital's six provinces.

## Quake hits northeast Syria — monitors

ANKARA (R) — A strong earthquake hit northeast Syria on Sunday and was felt in four provinces of Turkey, Turkish monitors reported. There was no immediate word in Damascus of casualties or damage. Officials at Bosphorus University told Turkey's Anatolian news agency the earthquake was centred 500 kilometres south of their monitoring station in the Turkish city of Erzincan. The Turkish monitors measured it at 5.0 on the Richter scale powerful enough to cause heavy damage in a populated

## Mubarak begins Europe visit

LONDON (AP) - President Hosni Mubarak reviewed the Middle East peace process with an envoy of King Hassan of Morocco, then arrived in London for a week-long trip to Europe. Mr. Mubarak, who was given a red-carpet greeting at London's Heathrow airport by British Foreign Office officials, will also visit Italy, Romania and Poland. The aim is to increase trade ties with the European nations and seek investments to support Egypt's economic reform programme, Foreign Minister Amr Musa said.

## European Community gives \$12m to PNA

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The European Community has signed a \$12-million agreement with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) for the rehabilitation of freed prisoners, the social welfare minister said Sunday. Intissar Al Wazir said the funds were expected to be released in three weeks. "The agreement signed is for training, rehabilitation and small projects," she told AFP. She said about 6,000 Palestinian prisoners have been released from Israeli jails, in accordance with the autonomy deal. Another 7,000 are also to be released under the deal.

## Israeli soldier wounded in attack

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Guerrillas ambushed an Israeli patrol near the Crusader-built Beaufort Castle in Sonth Lebanon Sunday. Security sources said one Israeli soldier was wounded. The Lebanese sources, speaking on condition of anonymity in an enclave Israel occupies in South Lebanon, said the attack was mounted by Hizbollah guerrillas while the patrol reconnoitered near the hilltop fortres at 7 a.m. (0500 GMT). The attackers blasted the mechanised patrol at close range with Sagger missiles, shoulder-fired rocket-propelled grenades and machineguns, the sources said.

## Syrian ship sinks in stormy sea

ATHENS (AP) — A small Syrian ship carrying a cargo of salt sank in a storm off Greece's Cape Maleas on Sunday and nearby ships were picking up its 10 crewmen who were in the sea, the Merchant Marine Ministry said. The motorship Magid H. sank at 11.30 a.m. (0930 GMT) while six miles northeast of the cape on the Peloponnesus peninsula, a spokesman said. He said that nearby ships had picked up one man and were trying to reach another who was in the water with a life jacket. Another eight crew men were reported to be in a life raft, he said.

## Egyptian politician comes out of hiding

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian politician thrown out of parliament for corruption earlier this year has reappeared after eight months in hidding, security sources said on Sunday. Tawfik Zaghloul, who was independent member of parliament for the Nile Delta constituency of Al Santa, handed himself in to police headquarters in the nearby town of Tanta on Saturday and is now in jail, they said. Mr. Zaghloul disappeared on March 23, the day a court sentenced him to three years in jail for wasting public money and accepting a 5,000 pound (\$1,500) bribe. The court in Tantak found him guilty of accepting the bribe in return for awarding a contract with a public sector company which he chaired. Parliament expelled him on March 30. The sources did not say where Mr. Zaghloul had been biding.

## Egyptian farmer killed to avenge shooting

ASSIUT (R) — Gunmen shot dead a farmer in southern Egypt in an apparent revenge attack for the killing of a mosque caretaker by suspected militants, security sources said on Sunday. They said Ali Eid, father of wanted militant Ahmad Ali Eid, was shot dead by gunmen thought to be relatives of Farrag Taha, who was killed on Saturday at the Zawiyya mosque in Tanda, 250 kilometres south of Cairo. The Mosque, once run by the militant Al Gama'a Al Islamilyah (Islamic Group), was recently taken over by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. Three suspected Gama'a gunmen stormed it on Saturday, killing Taha and wounding another man before fleeing. The sources said the men who killed Ali Eid struck on Saturday morning about three hours after the mosque attack, all escaped. It was not clear whether his son had taken part in the mosque raid.

## Yemen embassies to have 7 diplomats

ADEN (AP) — Yemen is limiting the number of diplomats serving at each of its missions abroad to a maximum of seven under austerity measures introduced after the civil war, a foreign ministry official said. Most of the embassies will now have between three and six diplomats. The bigger ones will be allowed seven diplomats, said the official. He said up to 15 diplomats were serving in some of the more important embassies. Although financial reasons were cited as the main cause for the reduction in the number of diplomats, the move also was expected to help Sanaa purge its missions of southern Yemenis.

## Jordanian tourists to enter Israel today

AMMAN (R) — A first Combined agency dispatches cooperation.

group of Jordanian tourists will visit Israel on Monday following complaints from travel agents that Israeli authorities were slow in issuing visas. "Barring any last-minute

surprises, we expect a group of 28 Jordanians to head to Israel tomorrow via the Jordan River crossing," a government official told Reu-The two countries opened

their borders last Sunday after signing a peace treaty on Oct. 26. Hundreds of Israelis have flooded into Jordan, visiting

the Nabatean rock-carved city of Petra and other ancient sites such as Mount Nebo, where Moses died. "Not a single Jordanian,

whether a businessman, a journalists or a tourist has passed through us to Israeli on a Jordanian passport," the official said.

Jordanian travel agents have complained that it is taking Israel's interior ministry almost two weeks to issue visas for Jordanian tourists. They say Jordan is granting them in a week.

Some believe security considerations are behind the delay. Many of Jordan's 4.2 million people are of Palestinian origin and still have family living in Israel and in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Travellers have to rely on Travel agencies to obtain visas until embassies open by Dec. 10. The Treaty, Israel's second with an Arab state, ended a

#### 46-year state of war. House urges Palestinian dialogue

(Coutinued from page 1)

The House reviewed report by its Finance Committee on the Jordan Investment Corporation and a report by the Legal Committee on an amendment to a law related to the Royal Jordanian (RJ) national airline.

Before the end of the session, the House issued a statement appealing to the Palestinian people to abstain from in-fighting and prevent bloodshed and resort to dialogue to resolve disputes...

## Russia urges Iraq to meet all U.N. terms

Chernomyrdin signs major economic deal with Saudis rammes for economic

RUSSIAN Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin urged Iraq to meet all U.N. conditions for the lifting of sanctions, during a visit to Saudi Arabia Sunday where the two countries also signed a landmark economic accord.

Mr. Chernomyrdin told reporters he had discussed with Saudi King Fahd the lifting of the embargo, which was imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of

Kuwait. The Russian premier, speaking before setting off for Kuwait on the second leg of a Gulf tour, said Moscow would "work for Iraq to conform fully to all the U.N. Security Council resolutions."

Only then should the crippling embargo be lifted, Mr. Chemomyrdin

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev pledged to work for the easing of sanctions in return for Iraq's recognition of Kuwait after a visit to Baghdad last month.

Iraq formally recognised the emirate and its borders on Nov. 10 — one of the key conditions for an end to sanctions — but four days later the Security Council renewed the embargo for another six months.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said: "We hope this issue will be resolved in the near future and that the embargo will be lifted, but on the condition that Iraq applies all U.N. resolutions. Saudi Arabia was the

first leg of Chemomyrdin's six-day tour of the Gulf. the first by a Russian head of government to the region. During his visit, Riyadh and Moscow signed an

agreement for economic and cultural cooperation which Moscow hailed as an historic step in ties between the two countries. The deal, signed by Mr.

Chernomyrdin's deputy for foreign economic relations Oleg Davydov and Saudi Finance Minister, Mohamad Abal Khail, will set up a committee of officials and businessmen from both countries to develop prog-

Interfax news agency quoted Mr. Davydov as

saying Saudi Arabia had agreed to rescheduled Russia's \$250 million debt to the kingdom. The agreement would mean Moscow could defer

until 1996 repayment of the first \$100 million, Mr. Davydov was quoted as saying in Riyadh. Interfax said the debt

was part of a \$750 million Saudi credit made to the former Soviet Union in 1991.

Mr. Davydov, who is also foreign trade minister, told RIA news agency the two sides also agreed to set up an Arab investment fund in Russia. No details were available. Mr. Chernomyrdin, the

first Russian prime minister to visit Kuwait, was met upon his arrival there by Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah. Al Sabah, who is crown prince and prime minister. He will also visit Oman and the Unifed Arab Emirates.

Diplomats said :he main aim of Mr. Chemothyrdin's two-day visit was to develop trade, which was \$20 million in the 1993/94 fiscal year, and seek investment. "Moscow is facing economic hardships. It can use some Gulf investments," a diplomat said. But he said Kuwait was expected to be more interested in discussing Iraq. In remarks published on

Sunday Mr. Chernomyrdin said he wanted better trade ties with Gulf Arab States. "Our markets are open for the Gulf states' goods and you can invest your capital in a lucrative manner in our country." Al Qabas newspaper quoted Mr. Chernomyrdin as saying.

"We expected to sign a number of bilateral agreements at the aim of establishing a sound official base for developing relations between our countries in various fields," he said.

Diplomats say Mr. Chernomyrdin was keen to reassure wealthy Gulf Arab states that Russia would not develop ties with Baghdad at their expense.

was taken.

as toilet paper

#### Dog prices crash as Beijing mulls exorbitant fees